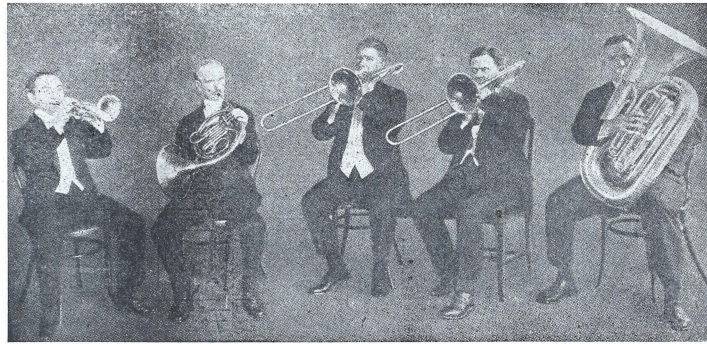


MUSIC APPRECIATION SECTION**THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

By BERT PAUL OSBON

*(Continued from the July number)***VIII. THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE BRASSWIND SECTION***Trumpet**French horn**Trombone**Bass trombone**Tuba*

PERHAPS the instruments most interesting to the boys are those belonging to the brass section. Boys, why do you like this group of instruments so well? Is it the shiny bright metal that gleams in the light, or the loud sound that is sometimes heard from this section of the orchestra? While the brass instruments usually have a part in the loud music, they are often also heard in the very soft passages.

The player of each of these instruments plays them by blowing wind into them; they are made of brass (but are sometimes plated with nickel or silver or gold). Therefore this is called the brass-wind section.

This section has four instruments: the trumpet, the French horn, the trombone,

and the tuba. Let us now learn something about each of these instruments.

The Trumpet

The trumpet is the soprano of the brass choir of the orchestra. This instrument had its origin in the first primitive instruments made by man from the horns and tusks of animals, or from hollow conch shells. The ram's horn trumpet, or *shofar*, was used by the ancient Hebrews to call the members of their congregation together. It is still used sometimes in modern Jewish synagogues.

Military trumpets of metal were used by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and descendants of these early instruments were used during the middle ages.

In the middle ages every nobleman had his own trumpet call. Shakespeare often calls this a "sennet" or a "tucket." A herald in those times was always provided with a trumpet. European monarchs, including Charles V of Spain and Henry VIII of England, had special bands of trumpeters who took important parts in the ceremonies of those days.

The modern trumpet of the symphony orchestra looks somewhat like a cornet. (See the illustration on page 282.) However, the tone of the trumpet is much more brilliant and triumphant than that of a cornet. When the entire orchestra is playing on some mighty strain, you will very likely hear the trumpets' melody leading out.

The trumpet consists of a narrow cylindrical tube about eight feet in length coiled in rectangular shape. At one end is a cup-shaped mouth-piece; the other end expands into a conical bell.

The tone of the trumpet is noble and triumphant. It adds brilliancy to the entire orchestra.

The modern symphony orchestra commonly employs two trumpets, although four are sometimes used.

The Cornet

The cornet is an invention of the early nineteenth century, developed from the bugle. It is a valve instrument like the trumpet, but its tone is not so brilliant or heroic. The tube of the cornet is not cylindrical like that of the trumpet. It is easier to play than the trumpet.

The French Horn

The French horn is the alto of the brasswind section. Its origin is traced to the old hunting horn, which consisted of a metal tube coiled around so as to fit over the head of a hunter on horseback.

The French horn has a large bell. The bell is at the end of the instrument opposite the mouthpiece. The player frequently puts his right hand into the bell to raise or lower the pitch or change the tone quality. (See the illustration on page 282.) The tone of the French horn may be sweet and mellow, but by placing his right hand inside the bell at a certain angle, the player can produce a harsh and nasal tone. Watch the French horn player if you attend a concert by a symphony orchestra.

The Trombone

The trombone is a very old instrument. It is said to have been used by the ancient Romans. In the middle ages this instrument was called a "sackbut" from a Moorish word meaning "pump." The player of a slide trombone (page 282) pulls the slide back and forth somewhat like a pump; hence the ancient name.

This movement of the slide lengthens or shortens the column of air in the tube, thus lowering or raising the pitch. The player of this instrument must have a "good ear," for the pitch is determined by the distance he slides this tube back and forth.

The trombone possesses a noble dignity, almost sacred. For many years it was used in the medieval churches, where it produced a grand effect.

Although the trombone is an exceedingly powerful instrument as to volume of sound, it is capable also of a soft tone, which can on occasions be quite awe-inspiring.

The modern symphony orchestra generally uses three trombones. Sometimes

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THE MONKEYS

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As soon as the water was quiet, the reflection appeared again.

"Get it quickly," Old Monkey-Monk shouted. "It will soon drown if you do not get it quickly."

The last monkey dipped his hand into the water again, but again the moon disappeared. By and by the reflection reappeared.

Mr. Monkey-Monk was tired of waiting, so he decided to go after the moon himself. He climbed down the chain of monkeys, down to the water.

By this time the hands of the biggest monkey had become very tired from holding the branch of the tree so long. When the weight of Old Monkey-Monk was added to the weight of the chain of monkeys, he could no longer hold on to the branch.

Before Mr. Monkey-Monk could grab the moon, the biggest monkey was obliged to let go the branch. Down he fell and all the rest of the monkeys fell down, down, down into the deep water of the well. And oh, dear me! Every one of the unfortunate monkeys—even Old Monkey-Monk—was drowned.

Poor, foolish monkeys! They reached for the

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one of these is a bass trombone. (See the illustration on page 282.) The bass trombone resembles the other trombones in appearance, but its bell is wider and it can play lower tones than the ordinary trombone.

The Tuba

The big bass horn of the orchestra is called the tuba. Its 18-foot tube is wound around many times, but still it takes up a great deal of room. (See page 282.)

The tuba has deep, full tones. Though deep in pitch it is surprisingly agile, considering the gravity of its tone.

Only one tuba is used by the symphony orchestra.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Can you name the instruments of the brasswind section?

2. Have you examined the picture of each instrument? (See page 282.)

3. Can you tell about each of the following instruments: (a) trumpet, (b) French horn, (c) trombone, (d) tuba?

moon, and got nothing.

Did you ever reach for the moon, and get nothing? (Ask your teacher what this question means.)

POET OF THE PHILIPPINES

(Continued from page 299)

Manuscript Club of that institution, where he received "much encouragement."

Next, we hear of Mr. Concepcion at New York; there he met several prominent authors—important authors, some of them prize winners. Among his literary associates in the American metropolis were Arthur E. Christman and Rachel Fields.

Mr. Concepcion returned to his native land in 1931.

A year later, another book of his poems, *Bamboo Flute*, appeared.

At the inauguration of the Philippine Commonwealth Mr. Concepcion collaborated with Isabelo P. Caballero in the publication of the biography of President Quezon.

We shall await with eagerness the appearance of further volumes from the pen of this gifted poet of the Philippines.

4. Which is the largest brasswind instrument?

5. Which brasswind instrument has a very brilliant tone?

6. Which instrument is played by a slide?

(To be continued)