

## Play The Trumpet!

The trumpet is a musical instrument in the brass family. Of all brass instruments, the trumpet is highest in register, above the French horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium, and tuba. A musician who plays the trumpet is called a trumpet player or trumpeter. As with all brass instruments, the sound is produced by buzzing the lips into a mouthpiece.

The oldest trumpets date back to 1500 B.C.E. and earlier. The bronze and silver trumpets from Tutankhamun's grave in Egypt, bronze lurs from Scandinavia, and metal trumpets from China date back to this period. The earliest trumpets were signaling instruments used for military or religious purposes, rather than music in the modern sense. In ancient Rome, they were called "tubas", Latin for "tubes".



### Trumpet Facts

- Taking care of a trumpet is easy! It is stored in just two pieces in the carrying case. The only regular maintenance other than keeping it clean is to oil the valves and grease the slides as it's needed.
- The trumpet is played with the right hand on the top of the instrument with the first three fingers resting on the valves. The left hand holds the trumpet with the fingers wrapped around the middle of the valves.
- The trumpet is a very versatile and widely used instrument. Trumpets are always needed in bands, symphony orchestras, jazz groups and small instrumental groups. It is very common for the trumpet to perform a large number of solos and melodic lines in all of these groups. The trumpet also works well as a solo instrument.
- There are many different kinds of trumpets. The most common type is the B-flat trumpet, but C, D, E-flat, E, F, G and A trumpets are also available.
- The trumpet is used in nearly all forms of music, including classical, jazz, rock, blues, pop, polka and funk.
- The most famous trumpet player in the United States was Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong. He was an unofficial ambassador to the world for the State Department in the post WWII era and was more famous worldwide than anyone except the president!

