

Trumpet, Brass Instrument

Brass Family instruments are generally made of brass. To make the sound on a brass instrument the player buzzes his/her lips while blowing air through a cup or funnel shaped mouthpiece. To produce higher or lower pitches, the player adjusts the opening between his/her lips. The mouthpiece connects to a length of brass tubing ending in a "bell" shape. The shorter the tubing length, the smaller the instrument, and the higher the sound; and the longer the tubing length, the larger the instrument, and the lower the sound. The brass family can trace its ancestry back to hunting horns, and military bugles. The main instruments of the brass family include the trumpet, horn, trombone, and tuba.

The **trumpet** is the highest sounding member of the brass family. The brilliant tone of the trumpet travels through about 6 - $\frac{1}{2}$ feet of tubing bent into an oblong shape. The player presses the three valves in various combinations with the fingers of the right hand to obtain various pitches. Most trumpets are made of brass, but some are made of silver.

