

# *Purchasing a Trombone*

## **Types of Trombones**

There are three major types of trombones: straight tenor, trigger-type tenor (also referred to as F-rotor or F-attachment), and bass trombones. For ALCS students we look for the Tenor type instrument with or without an F-attachment.

Typically, students start with a straight tenor trombone and later graduate to a horn with the F-rotor, but this isn't a hard and fast rule. The trigger just helps shorten the distance the student will have to move the slide, allowing him/her to play a little faster. Most trigger trombones are considered a step up instrument (intermediate) so they generally cost a little more than the average student line instrument. Either instrument is fine for students here at school.

## **Brand Names**

Below are a few brand name makers of quality trombones. With modern day computers I am sure you can find more – please feel free to contact any music teacher at ALCS if the one you find does not appear below to add more input before purchasing. Some other brands may be cheaper; however, they offer no replacement parts to fix the instrument if broken in the future.

Bach, Blessing, Conn, Holton, Jupiter, Reynolds, Yamaha

## **Trombone Finishes**

Lacquer finishes are the most common. (gold color) Plated finishes are regarded as higher-quality finishes because they have less dampening effect on vibration and is why most professionals choose this type finish. The most common is the silver-plated trombones; however, they require more maintenance because they tarnish. For students at ALCS, the lacquer horns are recommended.

## **Mouthpieces**

Most trombones come with a “stock” mouthpiece included. When purchasing you may or may not be able to switch out the mouthpiece being more specific in the size. Feel free to ask for a Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece; they may tell you that the “stock mouthpiece” is another brand's copy of it which also would be fine. Most mouthpieces are silver-plated. If your child is allergic to silver you may consider a gold-plated instead. (it, of course, costs more).