

Purchasing a Trumpet

Types of Trumpets

There are many types of trumpets on the market today; ALCS Students play on a Bb trumpet (B flat trumpet) or cornet. The Bb trumpet is cylindrical tubing and is slightly larger while the Bb cornet has conical tubing. Either is fine for a student and will sound very similar. Both are available in beginner, intermediate and professional models. Any of these instruments are fine for student use here at school.

Brand Names

Below are a few brand name makers of quality trumpets. 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 for more input before purchasing. Some other brands may appear to be cheaper, however they offer no replacement parts to fix the instrument if broken which will cause custom repairs (parts made from scratch) that usually cost more!

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

Trumpet Valves

One of the most important factors in selecting a trumpet is the valves which is the part that the student pushes down to get different notes. Valves, or rather valve pistons, come in a variety of metals. Nickel plated pistons are often found in student horns as they are very durable. Monel pistons are another kind, and also very resistant to corrosion! Some brands use cheaper materials cutting costs to the buyer but corrode quickly causing valves to stick for the students. Please make sure the valves are made from one of these materials! The brand names listed above *do* use these materials, if you are considering purchasing another brand name please double check what the valves are made of!

Trumpet 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 that is why most professionals choose this type of finish. The most common is the silver-plated trumpet; however, they require more maintenance because they tarnish. For students at ALCS, the lacquer horns are recommended.

Mouthpieces

Most trumpets come with a “stock” mouthpiece included (usually something close to a 7C). 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 3C or 7C 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 mouthpiece instead. It, of course, costs a little more, but will solve the problem of the Allergy.