

BRASS INSTRUMENT EVOLUTION

A Chronological Reference Chart

Ancient Era Natural Horns

Animal horns and conch shells. No valves or slides; used primarily for signaling and ritualistic purposes.

15th Century The Sackbut

The predecessor to the modern trombone. Featured a slide mechanism allowing for a full chromatic scale.

17th - 18th Century Natural Trumpet

Valveless instruments. Players relied on the harmonic series and lip tension to change pitches.

1814 - 1839 Piston Valves

Heinrich Stölzel and Friedrich Blümel invent the valve, allowing instruments to play chromatically in all registers.

1835 The Tuba

Patented by Wilhelm Friedrich Wieprecht and Johann Gottfried Moritz to provide a powerful bass voice for brass bands.

20th Century Modern Standardization

Refinement of alloys, lead-pipe tapers, and precision rotary valves for professional orchestral performance.