

# Basic Detail Report

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## Alto Orpheon, E-flat

### Date

1887

### Primary Maker

Boosey & Company

### Description

Silver-plated brass, figure-8 shape with double-coiled upper part, U-shaped conical main tuning slide expanding from inner coil, fixed leadpipe, three compensating Périnet valves (1, 1/2, 1 1/2), third valve master, compensating loops at first and second valve added if used with third valve, bottom-sprung, alignment by one key on nickel-plated brass pistons, single water key at main tuning slide, wind way 1-2-3 or 1-2-3-1 (3rd valve used). This instrument is part of an original set of five orpheons apparently commissioned via Alfred Phasey for Gilmore's Band. They were ordered in February 1887 and finished in March 1887, supplied via William A. Pond & Co.

of New York. The set consisted of an E-flat soprano Antoniophone, a B-flat Cornet Antoniophone, a B-flat baritone Antoniophone, and an E-flat Bombardon Antoniophone. The present instrument is listed as "tenor" in the Boosey workshop books, but stamped as "Alto" according to US conventions. According to Boosey & Co. archives, the specific craftsman who made this instrument was Jacob; the valves were made by Holmes. To avoid infringement with Antoine Courtois's Antoniophone, Boosey & Co. used the term "Antoniophone" only internally, and called the same instruments "Orpheon" officially. The patent referred to in the inscription (US Patent No. 216595, 1879) is David James Blaikley's compensating system, first patented in Britain on November 14, 1878. The instrument was obviously altered from high pitch to low pitch by adding length to the main tuning slide.

### Dimensions

Height: ca. 445 mm Tube length: 2009 mm Bore diameter (initial, minimum, tuning slide, valve slides): 11.8 mm, 10.2 mm, 12.4-13 mm, 11.6 mm Bell diameter: 175 mm