

Basic Detail Report



Bass trombone, B-flat, F, low pitch

Date

1857-1883 ca.

Primary Maker

Henry William Moennig

Description

No other trombones from the workshop of H. W. Moennig are known today, making precise dating of this instrument troublesome. No matter which portion of the firm's operations it came from, it was built during a time when the primary need for bass trombones came from the rank of orchestral musicians. Even if it was made during the last years of Moennig's career, it is still the earliest known B-flat/F trombone of any variety—bass, tenor or otherwise—built on American soil. It is, without further evidence, the fountainhead of the Saxon template in domestic bass-trombone development. If Moennig (and other domestic makers) were producing B-flat/F bass trombones by the late 1850s, this is possibly the type of instrument used in the bass trombone solo performances of the time, such as the U.S. premiere of David's "Concertino" in 1862 by F. Letsch. (Byron Pillow. *The Bass Trombone in the United States and the Emergence of a Distinct, American-Style Instrument: 1755-1940.* M.M. Thesis, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, 2017, pp. 69-70.) Brass; with nickel-silver trim and garland, and chrome-plated nickel-silver inner slide. Berlin valve.

Dimensions

Bell diameter: 9-1/4 in (235 mm) Primary bore: 0.535 in (13.6 mm)