

The Euphonium



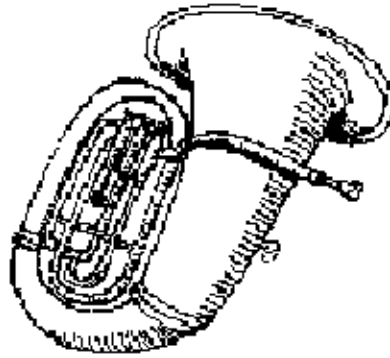
Early History

The history of the euphonium comes from the development of the tuba as they are very similar instruments, the only difference being their sizes. The Roman tube was first developed in the 1200s. It was a straight instrument about three feet long.

Much like the early trumpet, the tuba developed into an S shape and took on the name, *the Serpent*. The instrument was made from wood and was covered with leather. Six to eight holes were put into the instrument so performers could change pitch.

Later Developments

In 1813, the first key was developed. Later, in 1828, Wilhelm Weiprecht produced a complete family of instruments using those keys. The baritone, one of those instruments, was one of those instruments. The baritone played in a different scale than the trombone because of its smaller bore (the size of the tube that makes up the instrument). Later, the English created the euphonium, which was similar to the baritone, only it had a slightly larger bore and played in the same scale (or key) as the tuba.



3. Students with braces may find it challenging as the braces could cut into the lip. Students can either modify mouth position or purchase a Brace Guard.

In Performance

The euphonium is most commonly found in orchestral, concert, and marching bands as has similar uses as the tuba. Simone Mantia was the name of the euphonium in Sousa's band, one of the most famous marching bands around the world. Although it is more useful in these groups, the euphonium can often substitute for the trombone in big band as the range of the instruments are the same. Only the tone quality of the euphonium and trombone are different (the baritone has a much softer sound).

Beginning Players

The euphonium is an excellent instrument for beginning brass players. Students who would like to play the trumpet, but are not able to create a clear sound on the instrument may wish to try the euphonium first. The instrument itself and its mouthpiece are larger, but the fingerings on the two instruments are identical. The following are some suggestions that would help new players with the instrument:

1. Students should be big enough to hold the instrument up and have their hands in proper playing position.
2. Normal teeth, lip, and chip formation make it easier for students to learn the instrument. Students with overbites, under bites, crooked or straight teeth, or even thick or thin lips may have to adjust their mouth position to get a proper sound.

