



BUYING A TRUMPET

There are three standards of instruments:

- Student
- Intermediate
- Advanced or Professional

This should not be viewed on a scale of quality; it is how manufacturers market the instruments through features and cost, with a balance on quality and the brand name. Some students will use a “student model” from the beginning, right through to University, and find it to be perfectly adequate.

Options

- **Finish** – lacquer or silver plate. Both are made of brass with either a clear varnish or silver plate on top and sometimes a little bit of colouring. Silver plate can be better for sweaty young hands, but can also be dearer.
- **Make** – this is partly down to an individual's taste, for example, Yamaha are well liked due to their consistency and popularity. Other makes include, Bach, Besson, Jupiter and Wirrel, although these are in no particular order.
- **Features** – some of these features are not always found on student models, but should be viewed in terms of who the trumpet is for and should be purchased with as many of these features as possible:
 - The third tuning slide should have a water key
 - This slide should run free and can be checked by depressing the third valve to see that it moves easily
 - There needs to be some type of mechanism to stop the third slide falling out; this would normally be a screw or securing device, a bar with two nuts is also popular
 - There should be a finger ring on the top of the third slide, professional models have this finger ring fixed in place but commonly student and intermediate models have these adjustable for small hands
 - A ring on the slide on the first valve is a nice to have

The best place to start is to look on the internet or at Oggiesmusic.com for the different makes and models, and short list those you like the look of. Compare this to the ones in the shop that the player can try and handle. If you are still in doubt; pick two, and ask your instructor; to review the specifications and identify the pros and cons for each of your chosen models. Often the shops have limited options to show you, if you have the time look around and get what you are happy with.

As with all purchases you should set a budget and get the best you can afford, new or second hand makes no difference, but a good mouthpiece will.

