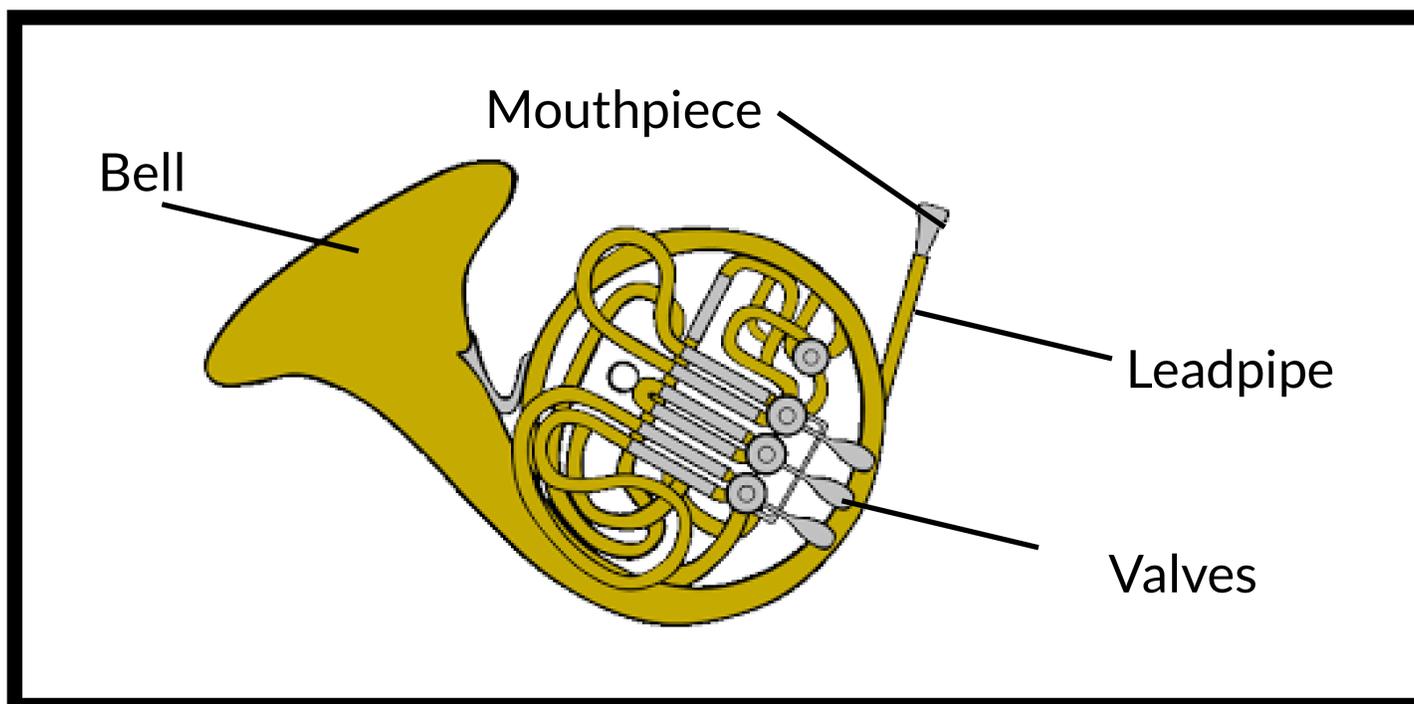


The French Horn



The Facts

- The French horn is a brass instrument made of tubing wrapped into a coil with a flared bell.
- The French horn is a powerful instrument and is used especially for heroic and bold musical statements in an orchestra in keeping with its original purpose for military calls, religious rites, and hunting signals.
- Before the double horn was invented, the “single horn” was primarily used in orchestras and bands. The most popular was the German horn, which emerged in the late nineteenth century and included a slide-crook, which was used to tune the horn. It was also noticeable for its much larger bell-horn, which made it much wider than any subsequent incarnation of the French horn.
- Although the horn is an ancient instrument, the French horn made its debut in a Ballet in Paris in 1664.
- It's not actually one piece. The French horn comes in pieces because of its awkward shape to make it easier to transport.
- When uncoiled, the horn is between 12 to 13 feet long!
- Musicians don't just place their hands in French horns to hold them in position. It actually affects the pitch of certain notes, meaning the musician uses more than breathing techniques and lip tension to stay in-tune.
- The French horn has the widest range of notes out of any brass instrument.
- The horn is often called the most difficult instrument to play. Although it can hit such a wide range of notes, it's incredibly easy for a musician to crack notes or play flat, making it an even more impressive feat to truly master the French horn.

Pieces to listen to:

- Schumann: Konzertstück for Four Horns and Orchestra
- Mozart: Horn Concerto No 4
- Beethoven: Fidelio Overture
- Bruckner Symphony No.4
- Errollyn Wallen: At the Ending of a Year

Players to listen to:

- Radek Baborak
- Dennis Brain
- Barry Tuckwell
- Sarah Willis
- Frøydis Ree Wekre
- Tim Thorpe