

# THE RODNEY MARSALIS PHILADELPHIA BIG BRASS

## STUDY GUIDE

---





# Rodney Marsalis

FOUNDER AND CEO, MARSALIS MANSION ARTISTS LLC



The sound of Rodney's trumpet has reverberated throughout the world. Whether playing baroque piccolo trumpet or interpreting works commissioned especially for him, his artistry has been enthusiastically enjoyed inside of the United States and in such countries as France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Italy, England, Brazil, Greece, Rumania, Japan, Taiwan, China, and Korea. Music critics have praised him from Fanfare Magazine, American Record Guide, Records International Catalog, and other international publications for his evocative interpretation, impeccable virtuosity, and beauty of sound.

A graduate of one of the world's leading conservatories, The Curtis Institute of Music, Rodney Marsalis has worked under the guidance of world-renowned conductors such as Leonard Bernstein, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gerard Schwarz, James DePreist, Jesus Lopez - Cobos, and Christopher Hogwood.

Mr. Marsalis was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he began his musical studies at the age of six. When he was eleven years of age, he began taking classical trumpet lessons with his cousin, Wynton Marsalis. Referred to as a "trumpet prodigy," his solo debut was at the age of fifteen with the New Orleans Symphony. After having won various solo competitions, he received national attention at the age of nineteen, performing as a soloist with John Williams conducting the Boston Pops Orchestra.

# What Instruments Are In A Brass Ensemble?

## TRUMPET

---



The trumpet is often the highest voice in a brass ensemble. It is an instrument that can produce exciting fanfares and beautiful lyrical melodies. Trumpets are employed to signify that something important is about to happen! The earliest trumpets did not have valves and relied totally upon the skill of the trumpeter to produce different tones using the natural overtone series. In 1792, Anton Weidinger created a trumpet with keys on which he played the Haydn Trumpet Concerto. Piston valves were added to the trumpet, and the instrument gained the ability to play virtuoso passages.

In New Orleans, virtuoso trumpeters like Louis Armstrong led traditional New Orleans ensembles in music that brought the sound of Jazz music to listeners around the world. Later, trumpeters like Wynton Marsalis gained acclaim for mastery of multiple styles of music, including Jazz and Classical music.



# FRENCH HORN

---



The French horn (since the 1930s known simply as the "horn" in some professional music circles) is a brass instrument made of tubing wrapped into a coil with a flared bell. The double horn in F/B $\flat$  (technically a variety of German horn) is the horn most often used by players in professional orchestras and bands. A musician who plays French horn is known as a horn player or hornist.

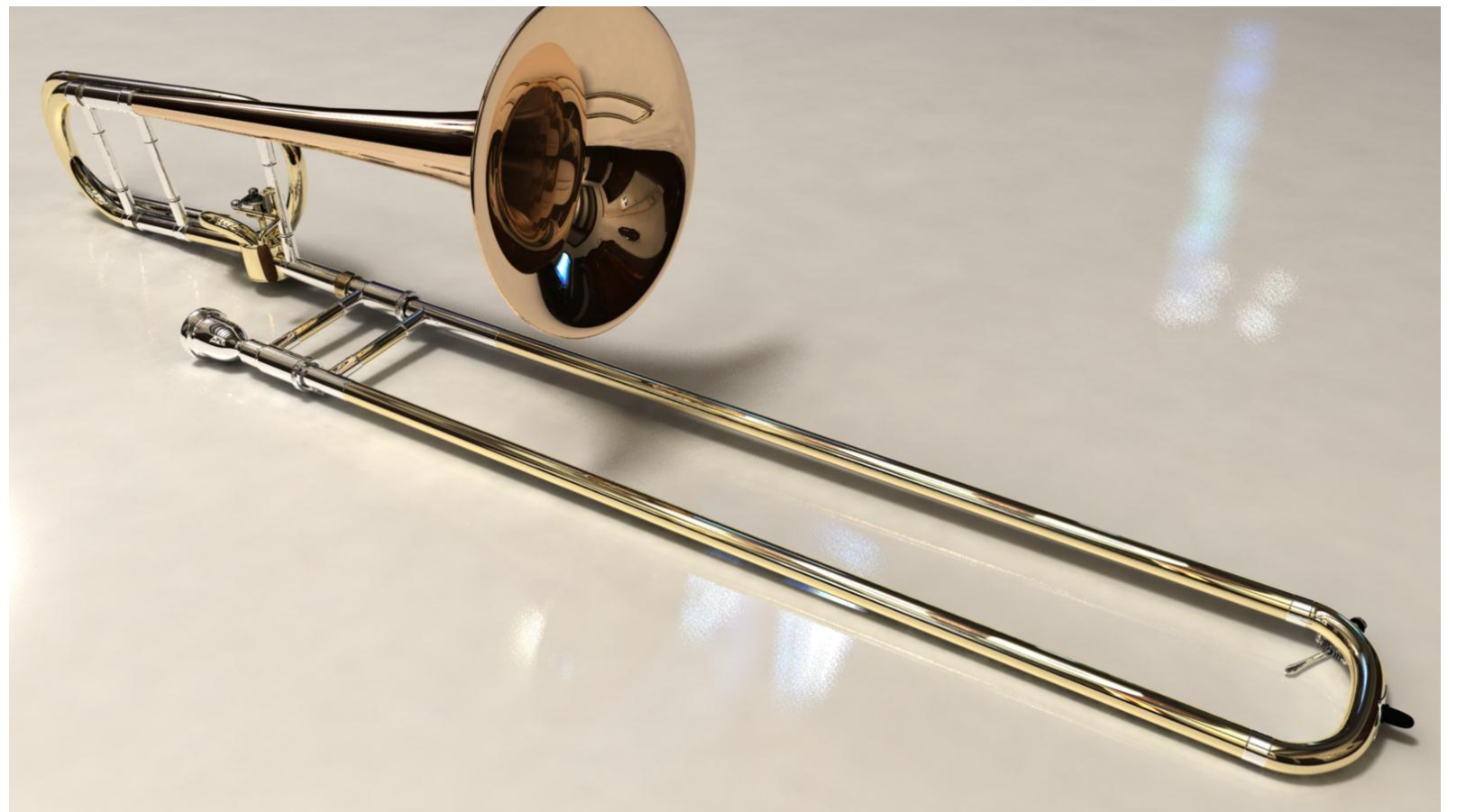
Pitch is controlled by the speed of air through the instrument, and the diameter and tension of the lip aperture. In a modern French horn, the operation of valves by the left hand routes the air into extra sections of tubing.



# TROMBONE

---

The trombone is a musical instrument in the brass family. As on all brass instruments, the sound is produced when the player's vibrating lips (embouchure) cause the air column inside the instrument to vibrate. Nearly all trombones have a telescoping slide mechanism that varies the length of the instrument to change the pitch.





# TUBA

---



The tuba is the lowest-pitched musical instrument in the brass family. The sound is produced by lip vibration into a large mouthpiece. It first appeared in the mid-19th century, making it one of the newer instruments in the modern orchestra and concert band. The tuba largely replaced the ophicleide. Tuba is Latin for 'trumpet.'



## FOUR ASSOCIATE ARTISTS WITH THE RODNEY MARSALIS PHILADELPHIA BIG BRASS

---



**Nilkita Solberg, French Horn**

**Terry Everson, Trumpet**





**Marty Erickson, Tuba**

**Chloe Swindler, Trumpet**



# HISTORY: WHAT WAS THE MARSALIS MOTEL?

---



In 1943 family patriarch, Ellis Marsalis, converted a barn on the shore of the Mississippi River into the Marsalis Motel. It catered to African-Americans, who were not allowed to stay at "whites only" New Orleans establishments under Jim Crow, the South's segregation laws.

The hotel and restaurant quickly became famous, attracting prominent musicians, such as Ray Charles, Cab Calloway, Ruth Brown, Etta James, Dinah Washington, and others, as well as some of the most influential civil rights leaders of the day, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and Thurgood Marshall.

# Terms

---

Use the internet to search for and define these terms:

Brass Ensemble

Second Line March

French Horn

Baroque Music

Trombone

Broadway Musical

Jim Crow

Segregation

The Green Book

Improvisation

Trumpet

Tuba

Grit



# What About You?

---

**How do you think leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. persisted at a time when there were so many people who opposed the notion of integration?**

**Give an example where at first, you thought that you would not be able to do something. Everyone told you that it was impossible, but then you got it done. How did you do it?**

**What steps can you take this week, this month, this year to achieve your dreams?**

# Rodney's Recommended Reading List

---



Talent is Overrated

Audition Success

Blink

Tipping Point

Who Moved My Cheese?

Inner Game of Tennis

Inner Game of Music

The Tao of Jeet Kune Do

Think and Grow Rich

Zen and the Art Archery

Science of Breath

Creative Visualization

A Soprano on Her Head

The Tao of Pooh

Mental Toughness in Athletics

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

Grit