

C. Bruno & Son

New York City

- 1806 Charles Bruno is born in Germany (census).
- 1832 Bruno emigrates to Macon, Georgia (imm. Record).
- 1834 Bruno moves to New York City. One instrument has been found with "Since 1834" on the bell.
- 1837 Bruno listed under books, 212 Fulton St (directory).
- 1838-39 Martin & Bruno, 212 Fulton, with C.F. Martin (dir).
- 1840-48 Bruno is not listed in the NYC directory.
- 1845 Son Charles Jr. is born in December in NYC.
- 1848 Son Richard is born in March (lifelong lawyer).
- 1849 Bruno now at 92 E. 15th St., merchant (dir).
- 1850 Bruno & Cargill, musical inst, 62 Liberty St (dir).
- 1851-53 Bruno & Cargill, 47 Maiden Lane, French & German instruments including brass (dir).
- 1854-57 Bruno, Weissenborn & Co., 2 Maiden Ln, Herman Weis.
- 1858-59 Charles Bruno, musical inst, 2 Maiden Ln (dir).
- 1860-63 Bruno & Morris, mi, 2 Maiden Ln, Richard Morris.
- 1864-65 Charles Bruno, musical inst., 203 Broadway (dir).
- 1866-67 Ch. Bruno, 581 Broadway, agent for C.F. Martin.
- 1868-81 C. Bruno & Son, 4 Cortlandt St, w/Charles, Jr. (dir).
- 1879 Charles F. Bruno is born to Richard.
- 1882 C. Bruno & Son, 10 Cortlandt St. (dir).
- 1883-91 Now at 54 Maiden Lane & 29 Liberty St (dir).
- 1884 Charles Sr. dies in March.
- 1886 Catalog lists three grades of brass instruments. Top is Henry Pourcelle, Paris; middle Perinet valve; low is Berliner valve. All are probably European imports.
- 1897 Charles F. Bruno, 356 Broadway, importer (dir).
- 1900-02 C. Bruno & Son, 356 Broadway (dir).
- 1912 Charles Jr. dies on April 17.
- 1918-30 Bruno now at 351-53 4th Ave (dir).
- 1920 Charles F. Bruno, sec-tres of musical inst. co (census).



- 1920s Milton Fink (1904-1969) is working for Bruno in NY (History of Southern Music).
- 1930 Milton Fink moves to San Antonio, Texas and forms Southern Music.
- 1941 Bruno now at 460 W. 34th St (phone book).
- 1950 Besson Inc is established in Texas to sell brass instruments. It is started by Geoffrey Hawkes and set up by Milton Fisk and Boosey & Hawkes (Howell). They file for incorporation in Texas on October 17 (Texas State records).
- 1950 Southern Music moves to 1100 Broadway, San Antonio (Jasinski).
- 1951 Editions Hawkes and Couesnon go together and purchase F. Besson in Paris. The new company is set up as a subsidiary of Editions Hawkes and includes board members from Besson Inc, in San Antonio (Howell).
- 1953 Besson Inc of Texas is dissolved on 12-28 (opencorporates.com). At this time, the musical instrument business was sold to C. Bruno & Son (Jonathan Gurwitz). After this, the guarantee cards (see next page) for imported French Besson trumpets switch to Bruno but have the same address as Southern Music. [It appears that Fink purchased the Bruno name and moved it to Texas.]
- 1966 Arthur Gurwitz becomes president of Southern Music (Find-A-Grave).
- 1969 Milton Fink dies on December 13 in San Antonio. He is the vice-president of Southern Music. His address is 122 E. Mariposa Drive (death certificate).
- 1971 C. Bruno & Son is sold to Kaman Music and they are incorporated on July 29 with an address at 1601 Elm St, Dallas, TX (opencorporates).
- 1972 Besson trumpet #103472 is sold through Bruno of San Antonio to a dealer in Orlando. The presence of a zip code would require a date after July 1, 1963, when they were implemented. The first Discount Music store opened in 1972 (DM Facebook page) (guarantee card next page). [The 1972 sale would seem impossible as the Bruno address is not updated. Perhaps an old card from 1971?]
- 1983 C. Bruno & Son are located in Atlanta & San Antonio (ad).
- 1985 C Bruno & Son has a change of agent or office on 1-6.
- 1987 C. Bruno & Son is terminated on 12-16 (opencorporates).



Bruno Instrument Models:

1. Henry Pourcelle, Paris, late 19th to early 20th cent. This is not the actual maker but rather a trade name. Early brass are marked “Henry Pourcelle Paris.” Later ones are marked “C Bruno & Son Henry Pourcelle,” which are probably all made by B&F (photos 1&2 p.1 author’s collection).
2. Lafayette, Paris
3. Perfacktone; B&F in Czechoslovakia, c.1920
4. Perfection; some US made, others B&F, early 1900s
5. LaVesta, Paris; c.1900
6. Vocotone
7. Special Grade; numerous examples, B&F, c.1900-1920
8. Royal Artist; B&F, c.1920s
9. C. Bruno & Sons Inc.; no model name, Austria, c.1900
10. Maxitone; c.1920s trumpet (photo 5 at right, p.2)

B&F = Bohland & Fuchs

This company became B&F in 1870 and was located in Grazlitz, Austria. Instruments made before 1918 will say “Austria”. Those made from 1918-1920 may read “Czecho-Slovakia” then from 1920-1938 would be “Czechoslovakia”. Instruments made before 1891 do not have to be marked with a country of origin so they may be harder to trace. Other B&F marks are an anchor or a circle with three tabs sticking out.

Early Bruno instruments may have no markings as I have seen nothing older than the Pourcelle cornet shown in the top photo, which may be from the 1880s. I have often found brass instruments just marked “Austria” or “B&F” which could have been sold by Bruno or many other dealers. The mark is usually found on the center valve and probably dates them to after 1891 when the US law required it. Later country of origin marks are almost always found on the bottom of the lead pipe inlet.

Photos from Horn-u-copia.net or auction sales unless noted.

