French Horn

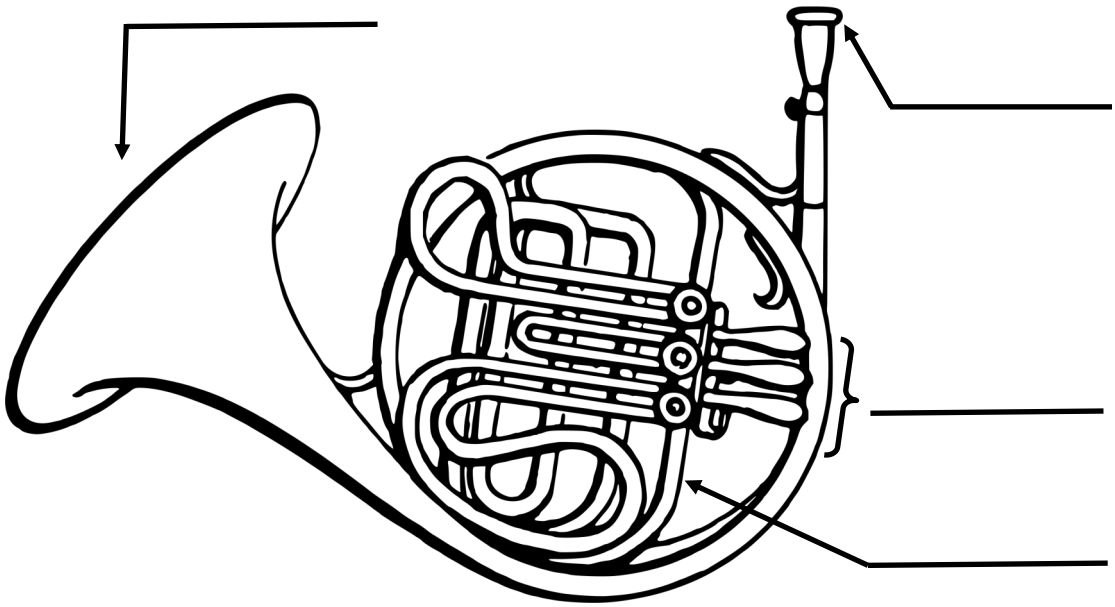
VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Music Learning Lab
Virtual Petting Zoo

Label the parts of the French Horn.

Word Bank:

- Valves
- Mouthpiece
- Bell
- Tubing



1) The French Horn is a member of the _____ family along with the _____, _____, and _____.

2) How do brass players create sound on their instruments?

_____

3) Approximately how long are the tubes that the air travels through on the French Horn?
_____ feet

4) Circle one: As you push down the valves, the tubing used gets <u>longer</u> / <u>shorter</u>.

5) How does a French Horn player change the sound in the bell?

_____

6) Describe the similarities and differences between the horn sound of the heroic and lyrical excerpts that Everett played. *(See page 2 for links to recordings to full pieces)*

_____

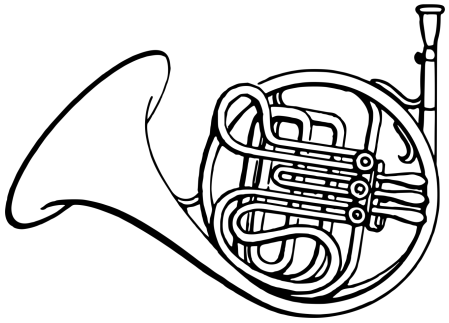
_____

_____

_____

French Horn

Vocabulary



- Brass Family: The Brass Family consists of four instruments. The Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, and Tuba. Brass players create sound in their instrument by buzzing/vibrating their lips in the mouthpiece.
- Amplify: to make sound louder
- Mouthpiece: the part of the instrument placed on the player's lips. The mouthpiece is a circular opening that leads to the main body of the instrument.
- Lyrical: beautifully expressing deep emotion

Further Listening:

John Williams *Star Wars Main Theme*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_D0ZQPqeJkk

Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 5, Movement II*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP90dgdN9gM

Hear horn player David Cooper play the

Strauss *Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWu27MIGuMw

For more videos, please visit https://virginiasymphony.org/learninglab/

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Answer Key

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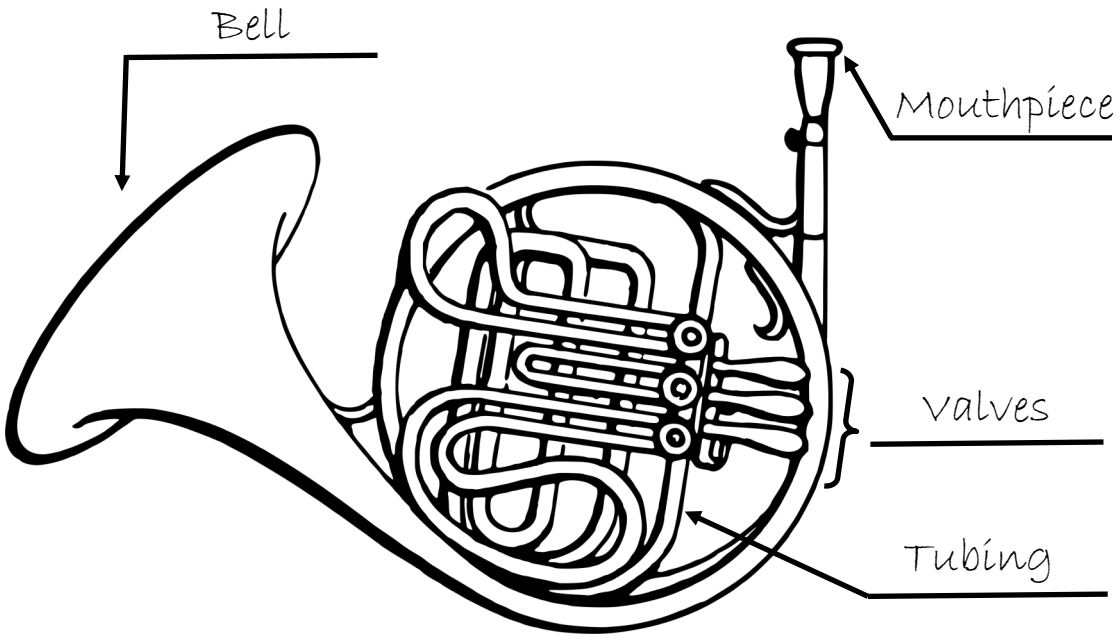

1) The French Horn is a member of the brass family along with the trumpet, trombone, and tuba.

2) How do brass players create sound on their instruments?
By vibrating their lips together into the mouthpiece

3) Approximately how long are the tubes that the air travels through on the French Horn?
12 feet

4) Circle one: As you push down the valves, the tubing used gets longer / shorter.

5) How does a French Horn player change the sound in the bell?
By opening and closing their hand within the bell

6) Describe the similarities and differences between the horn sound of the heroic and lyrical excerpts that Everett played.
Think about how long or short, smooth or choppy, loud or soft, fast or slow the sounds were