

SPOTLIGHT ON

The FRENCH HORN

During the next Family Musical Mornings concert, you will hear the sound of the **FRENCH HORN** throughout the *Halloween Spectacular*. Here is some information about this instrument, one of the oldest brass family members.

Click on this French Horn to hear the sound



The **FRENCH HORN**, or "Horn" for short, is a member of the brass family. The tube of a horn changes in diameter – it starts out narrow at the mouthpiece and gets wider and wider until the end where there is a large opening called a bell. To produce a sound on French horn, you blow into a mouth piece. The air travels down one of 3 or 4 tubes that are selected by pressing a valve. You put your right fist into the end of the bell to help shape the final tone of the sound that comes out the end of the horn.

Practice your HORN!!!

→ Music Lingo ←
EMBOUCHURE
Pronounced "Ahm-boo-shure"

Meaning: The adjustment of a player's mouth to a mouthpiece.

HORN players have to practice to learn how to properly blow into their mouthpiece. To practice this embouchure, you can cup your hand right next to your mouth, press your lips together, and blow out while your lips are still closed. It's like making the "raspberry" sound. You can even make your raspberry sound have a beat by tapping your tongue against the top of your mouth while you're blowing.

To hear what individual notes sound like on the French Horn, click **HERE**

Are you interested in playing the French Horn? Click here to go to a website that has more information about playing the French Horn.

FUN FACT: If you were to straighten out all the tubing of a French Horn, it would measure almost 12 feet!



Do not forget to write a question before the concert in the Musical Carnival! During the concert a **FRENCH HORN** player from the Pacific Symphony, will answer your questions!