

Besson & Co.

London

- 1850 Besson opens a London branch at 8 Lowther Arcade, Strand, at the store of John Pask (*NLI*)
- 1855 Besson now at #214 Regent St. with Jullien & Co. (*NLI*)
- 1858 Besson opens a factory at #198 Euston Rd. (now Stephenson Way, a lane behind the Euston Rd showroom) (*NLI*)
- 1862 instruments now marked "F Besson" (*NLI*)
- 1869 instruments now marked "F Besson & Co." (*NLI*)
- 1874 Gustav Besson dies leaving the company to his widow (*NLI*); Louis Schreiber becomes the US agent for Besson
- 1875 Besson's daughter Marthe takes control of the company
- 1883 US agency changes from Schreiber to Carl Fischer in NY
- 1894 Besson London employs 131 workers with an output of 100 instruments per week (*NLI*)
- 1896 Besson becomes a limited company (*NLI*)
- 1925 Besson buys the woodwind business of Stephen Quilter in London (*NLI*)
- 1933 the former Boosey & Co. factory is leased by Besson
- 1934 Besson at Euston Rd and #57 New Compton St. (*NLI*)
- 1935 Besson at New Compton & #7-10 Frederick Close St. (*NLI*)
- 1940 Besson buys woodwind maker Wheatstone & Co. (*NLI*)
- 1940-1945 no production due to the war (*NLI*)
- 1948 Besson is purchased by Boosey & Hawkes (*NLI*)
- 2006 Besson joins the Buffet Crampon Group
- 2013 Buffet buys B&S and all brass manufacture is in Markneukirchen, Germany

Photos 2 & below author's collection; others from auctions

