

# Charles (Karl) Missenharter

New York City

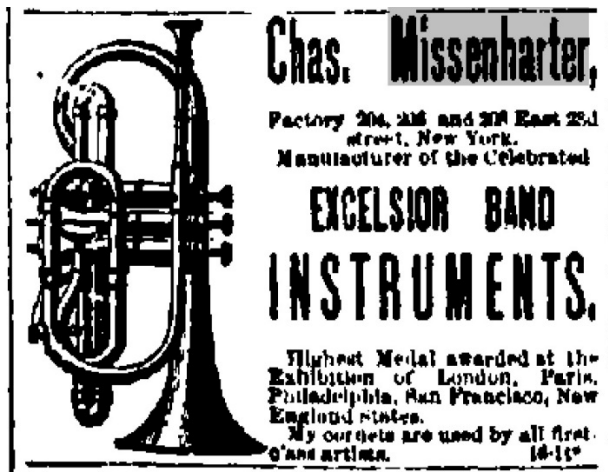
- 1829 Karl Moritz Missenharter (photo 1) born in Ulm, Germany
- 1856-62 worked at father's brass inst. factory in Ulm (*NLI*)
- 1862 Missenharter wins award at London expo; listed from Ulm
- 1862-69 worked in Stuttgart (*NLI*); pocket cornet from this factory (photo 2, Missenharter.com)
- 1867 wins award at Paris expo
- 1869 Chas. Missenharter, mus inst, #186 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, NY (directory); serial numbers possibly starting at 5000
- 1870 now at #88 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (directory)
- 1871-76 at #108 E. Houston St. (dir)
- 1876 award from Philadelphia expo given in Dec (*NY Times*); #5420 is highest number found without Phila award
- 1877-80 at #327 Bowery (dir)
- 1877 Baritone #5500 is lowest instrument found with Phila. award added on bell & is dated to December (photo)
- 1877 "American Institute" award added to bell; #5564 is earliest found with this (photo 3, Missenharter.com)
- 1878 November ad below shows him at #327 Bowery selling the celebrated Excelsior band instruments and adding an award from San Francisco (photo 4); #5643 is the lowest found with this award added; not found on #5618



**Charles Missenharter**  
MANUFACTURER OF THE  
CELEBRATED EXCELSIOR  
BAND INSTRUMENTS.  
HIGHEST MEDAL AWARDED  
at the  
EXHIBITIONS OF LONDON,  
PARIS, PHILADELPHIA, SAN  
FRANCISCO, and the AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE, New York. Address  
227 Bowery,  
New York.

- 1880 move to #204-208 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St by July when the below ad came out (*NY Clipper*); by now they also list an award from New England States which is never added to the bell;

Cornet #5420 (photo 5 ) from Missenharter.com



- 1881 Frank Osbon is Missenharter Agent in Greenfield, Mass.
- 1883 serial #7657
- 1884 Kohler & Chase wins a silver medal for best brass wind instruments (Missenharter) at the San Francisco expo
- 1891 sold business to Harry Coleman (1843-1895) of Philadelphia in August; Charles to stay on for now to supervise production in NY (*Music Trade Review*); #8504 is last serial number found without Coleman listed; NY factory inspection reports show 2 workers for 1891-93; the "Excelsior" name is now added to the bell inscription
- 1892 Coleman moved the factory to Phila. on October 21<sup>st</sup> (*Music Trade Review*); serial numbers 8593 to 8652 have been found with NY location; lowest Phila. serial number is 8899 (Missenharter.com)



HARRY COLEMAN, who purchased the interest of the Missenharter band instrument factory in this city, removed the entire plant to Philadelphia, Friday, October 21st. Mr. Coleman will now manufacture the Missenharter instruments, and the standard of excellence attained by them will be maintained by the new manufacturer.

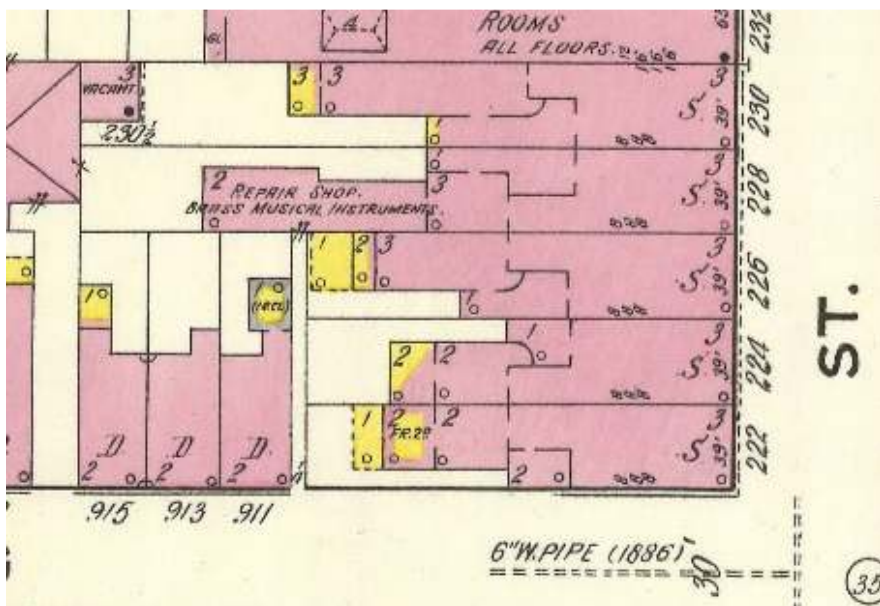
Cornet #9034 below is early Phila. example (author's photo)



- 1893 award given at Chicago expo ending in October which shows up on bells around #10000
  - 1895 Harry Coleman dies at age 52 from a heart attack; 10,000 people lined the streets for the procession (news article)
  - 1899 Charles Missenharter dies (obit)
  - 1909 last ad found for Coleman store at #228 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.; 1907 ad is looking for experienced brass worker
  - 1912 Carl Fischer ad shows his location at #228 N. 9<sup>th</sup> so he must have bought Coleman out by then
  - 1918 Fischer ad still shows him at #228 N. 9<sup>th</sup>
  - c1919 Trumpet #12295 is the highest number I have been able to find and is labeled "Ch. Missenharter / New York / 12295" which would imply post-Philadelphia production in NY (see next page for more information)
  - 1919 Fischer now gone from Philadelphia
  - 1920 Carl Fischer in NY selling Missenharter Excelsior line of band instruments (MTR, Dec)
  - 1922 Carl Fischer is selling Missenharter band instruments (ad)
  - 1923 St Malachy's Band in Rockaway Beach, NY has acquired Missenharter band instruments (*The Wave*)
  - 1925 Carl Fischer in NY selling Missenharter cornets (MTR)
- Cornet #5564 (photo 3); #5692 (photo 4); #5731 (photo 5); #7102 (photo 6); ballad horn #5594 (photo 2)

**Philadelphia Store:**

Coleman's store in Philadelphia was located at #228 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Spring Street. In this 1916 map below, they still have a repair shop in the rear.



Early NY cornet (photo 1 & 2, Robb Stewart); #7814 Eb cornet (photo 3); #11031 (photo 4 & 5); #12009 (photo 6)

These two photos show the building in 2017 which is currently May's Cosmetic Skin Care Center.



Photos from Horn-u-copia.net & auctions unless noted  
Excelsior trumpet #12228 was made in Phila. (author's photo)



Trumpet #12295 now says "New York" (auction photo)



Here are the bells of the two trumpets. The lettering and serial number look to have been done by the same engraver. These were sold by Carl Fischer (photo 1 at right, *MTR*).



Trumpet #12295 also has “Pat July 1910” and “12362” on the valves which is a Blessing valve patent. If that’s his serial number then this would date to c.1920. This would fit with Fischer listed in Philadelphia in 1918 but not 1919.

Photo 2 is Blessing trumpet #15xxx with a similar design.

Photo 3 is another trumpet just labeled “Excelsior” and may be a Bohland & Fuchs import. ([Horn-u-copia.net](http://Horn-u-copia.net) both) This may be what Fischer was selling later in the 1920s. I doubt if anything was made after the Depression.

