

The Mück Family

New York & New Jersey

- 1853 The first Muck musical instrument making starts in Moravia (1959 obituary for Rudy).
- 1875 The House of Muck begins brass making in Austria (Muck, 1939).
- 1907 Joseph R. Muck (1878-1962), a master brass craftsman, emigrates from Moravia to New York (census).
- 1912 Joseph's wife Katerina (1886-1963) emigrates to New York with children Rose (1906-?), Rudolph (1909-1959), and Philomena (1910-?) (census).
- 1914 Sally Ohnhaus (1875-?), musician, #16 w. 102nd St., NYC (directory).
- 1915 Joseph Muck is listed at #2204 2nd Ave., NYC (dir.). A soprano sax is known with label "J. R. Muck & Co., NY" and dated 1915 (photo 2)(photo 3 is Muck & Co alto).
- 1916 Rudy starts apprenticing with his father in instrument making (Muck).
- 1917 Rudy is playing trumpet with B.F. Keith's Boys Band.
- 1920 Muck family living at #113 126th St., NYC. Joseph is listed as a musical instrument maker at a factory (census).
- 1921 Ohnhaus & Muck, Inc., #6 Cooper Square, NY; formerly Penzel, Muller & Co., manufacturers and importers of band and orchestra instruments (ad in *The Billboard*, Oct). Sally Ohnhaus president, Joseph Muck secretary & treasurer. PM&Co was a clarinet maker at #6 Cooper from 1901-1921, then they moved to Long Island City and sold the store to O&M. O&M incorporated in NY in May with capital stock of \$10,000 (*Music Trade Review*).

OHNHAUS & MÜCK, Inc.
Formerly Penzel, Muller & Co., Inc.
MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF
BAND AND ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTS
ALSO EXPERT REPAIRING.
6 COOPER SQUARE, NEW YORK.

O&M Cornet c.1925 – European import stencil



RUDOLPH MUCK



- 1926 O&M changes to Ohnhaus Music House, #6 Cooper Sq. The Mucks open a music shop at #127 W. 48th St, NYC (*Music Trade Review*, March).
- 1930 Sally Ohnhaus now selling China ware, Bronx. Rudy Muck marries Josephine Weider (1908-?) of Tarrytown, NY.
- 1933 Rudy Muck introduces the "Cushion Rim" mouthpiece (advertising & obituary, photo 2). Ads have the first appearance of "Rudy Muck Company", #1595 Broadway.
- 1934 Rudy Muck Co., #1595 Broadway, NYC (June advert.)
- 1935 Joseph Muck, music store owner, S. Plainfield, NJ (census).



- 1936 Rudy Muck announces intention to build trumpets. He opens a factory & showroom at #125 E. 126th St., NY [sometimes said to be in the Bronx yet it's just across the river in Manhattan]. Rudy's 1939 brochure says Joseph retired in 1936 but the 1935 & 1940 census says he was a music store owner.
- 1937 JR Muck & Sons, Inc., #125 E 126th, band instrument accessories (*Presto Times*). [Apparently Rudy took over the 1926 store on 48th and Muck & Sons was at the new location.]
- 1937 Ads from August and October show the new Muck trumpet being sold through regional wholesaler Tonk Brothers in Chicago (*Down Beat*). [Surviving trumpets matching these ads and with serial numbers in the 30k range appear to be modified Blessing Super Artist models dating to the 1937-1940 period.]
- 1939 Rudy Muck Co., #127 W. 48th St. An ad says he is making only one trumpet and cornet model at this time. The trumpet has the third slide ring on the bottom (catalog) (photo 3 is #157 from c.1937).



1939 photo

1940 Joseph Muck, music store owner, S. Plainfield, NJ. Son Frank J. Muck (1914-?) is an employee at #125 E. 126th St (JR Muck & Sons) w/ brother Victor P. Muck (1918-1994).

1940 Sorkin Music in NYC is now the national distributor for Muck instruments (February *Down Beat*).

1940 The new Series 97 trumpet is shown in a Sorkin Music ad in the April *Down-Beat*. [These were lower-priced and do not have the stop rod on the third slide. Surviving examples are in the 32k range.]

An August 1941 ad says that the Muck trombone was introduced, “a little over a year ago”, so mid-1940. This is shown as a model 155 in an ad by Sorkin Music (December *Down Beat*).

A Muck trumpet was selling for \$155 at Peate’s Music in Utica (ad).

1941 A Sorkin Music ad in the February *Down Beat* mentions the 155 and Series 97 models. [The 155s were likely the original modified Super Artist trumpets.]

A Sorkin Music ad in September shows what appears to be the new Bach-style trumpet. Surviving examples start at serial #1000 (photos 2-6 at right). A Sorkin ad from November says that they are the national wholesale distributors for Muck trumpets, cornets, and trombones.

1947 J.R. Muck & Sons, musical instruments & repairs, #125 E. 126th St., NYC. Frank (from Crestwood) was charged with doing business as a second-hand dealer without a license.

1947 Rudy opens a factory at #233 Nevins St, Brooklyn (photo 1) at the corner of Butler St (*MTR* & confirmed by Rudy Jr). He moves to #43 Reid Ave.

1946 Rudy Muck Musical Instrument Co. is mentioned.

1948 Trumpet with #1425 is purchased new.

Now Rudy Muck Inc., #105 W. 48th St (Sept *Down Beat*).

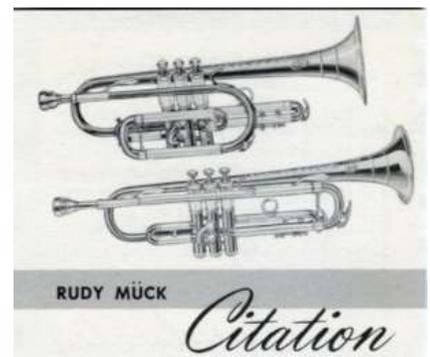
1949 Rudy moves to Eastchester, NY. Frank is in the National Guard (news articles). [The next advertisements for Muck instruments are from Carl Fischer in 1950. I am assuming that they purchased Muck in 1949 or early 1950.]

1950 Muck’s Musical Instrument Store, established 1896, #118 Madison, Plainfield, NJ; Victor P. & Philomena M. Muck (see business card last page). [The 1896 date could refer to starting a business in Moravia or perhaps they purchased an existing store in Plainfield].



1950 Carl Fischer Music buys a controlling interest in Muck and may have had some instruments built at the old York factory in Grand Rapids. Fischer catalog lists Citation, Conductor, and Academy models (shown at right). [Rudy Jr said that at least some instruments after WWII were made in Milan.]

A Carl Fischer ad from September gives a price range of \$102.50 for the Academy to \$215 for the Citation (*Down Beat* ad below).



1951 J.R. Muck & Sons had a contract for musical supplies in Yonkers, NY (contract listing).

Carl Fischer ads now have the Academy trumpet at \$117.50 and the Citation at \$250.

1952 Rudolph Muck, #105 W. 48th St, NYC (dir).

1953 Vic Muck, instrument repair & sales, #118 Madison Ave.

1954 Rudy Muck Inc., #125 E. 126th St, NYC. This ad (photo 5) has the new-style mouthpiece and shows that he retained this part of the business when the instruments were sold to Fischer.

1957 Rudy & Joan open the Eastchester Music Center, #419 White Plains Rd (photo 4). [Joan ran this store while Rudy was still in NY and working for Fischer (Rudy Jr).]

1959 Rudy Muck dies of a heart attack in Eastchester, NY. Wife Joan is in charge of the Eastchester Music Center, #419



White Plains Rd. Their home was at #28 Manchester Rd in Eastchester. Brother Frank runs a music store in the Bronx. Brother Victor runs the store in S. Plainfield, NJ. Both parents Joseph & Katherine are still alive (obit.). Citation trumpet #2549 is purchased new.

1959 The 48th St repair and mouthpiece business was run by Mike Fiore (b.1915) following the death of Rudy Muck. Mike had worked for Muck and ended up with the business there due to being owed money. Muck was not good with money and enjoyed his drink and women more than work. He was a drunk that not many people liked (Ray Noguera).

1960 The Eastchester store is sold to Sal & Michael Tardella. [Michael sold this in about 2017.]

1960s Muck sells instruments from London distributor Dallas Musical. Trumpets are balanced models that look like ones from Courtois in Paris (photo 1). A model 7M trumpet purchased new in 1960 has serial #622787 [The 600k serials are likely made by Bohm Meinl in Germany.]

1960s Mike Fiore made mouthpieces by hand using blanks purchased from Miller Automatics in Brooklyn; a supplier for many mouthpiece companies. He made at most 500 per year and they were of inconsistent quality (Noguera).

1966 A classified is selling a 3-month-old Citation trumpet.

1967 Muck's Musical Instruments, #118 Madison, Plainfield, NJ. Rudy Muck, Jr. (1939-?) is employed at County Welding in White Plains, NY (marriage announcement). Citation trumpet for sale is two months old; \$250 new (ad)

1977 Fiore & Levy Partnership file for a Trademark on the "Rudy Muck Cushion Rim" name with first use dating to 4/10/1934. This was published on 8/7/79 and cancelled on 2/3/1986. The company was at 151 W 48th St (US Trademark office).

c1980 The mouthpiece business was sold to Rod Baltimore who later sold it to Dick Akright in LA. This was later sold to Conn-Selmer (Noguera).

Other Notes:

The ü with two dots in the Mück name is a diacritic mark to indicate the correct way to sound the letter as in moon or lewd. [Rudy Jr pronounces it Mick.]

Instrument photos from auction sales, Horn-u-copia.net, or the Fred Cirksen collection unless noted. Photos 2 & 3 at right are Citation #2386 (author's photos).



See separate trumpet section for more details and dating.

2020: Notes from a conversation with Ray Noguera, a music store owner in New York who worked for Mike Fiore in the 1970s.

Muck Trumpets: early examples marked "New York" were made there and of very high quality. Rudy had money problems and sold the trumpet business to Carl Fischer. Fischer-era Muck trumpets were made in Czechoslovakia and Germany with Italy another possible source. Bell engravings were done by Jerry Brownstein who had a workshop in the Carl Fischer building. All production probably ended in the 1960s.

#33225 c.1938 (photos this page by the author)
This is a modified Blessing Super Artist.

