

# Boosey & Hawkes

## London

- 1792 Thomas Boosey Sr opens a book shop in London
- 1816 Thomas Boosey Jr (b. c.1795) founds Thomas Boosey & Co. selling musical instruments, #28 Holles St., Cavendish Square, London
- 1851 Boosey & Co. starts making their own wind instruments
- 1854 name changes to Boosey & Sons, #28 Holles St.
- 1857 now at #24 & #28 Holles St.
- 1860 William H. Hawkes, state trumpeter for Queen Victoria, starts an import business at Cumberland St., Pimlico
- 1862 Hawkes moves to #33 Soho Square
- 1864 Boosey changes name to Boosey & Co.
- 1868 Boosey buys Distin & Co. and starts selling brass instruments
- 1874 Boosey & Co. moves to #295 Regent St., London; about this time William Pond & Son, NYC, becomes the US agent
- 1875 Hawkes moves to Leicester Square
- 1876 Hawkes partners with Jules Riviere to form Riviere & Hawkes, making brass instruments
- 1879 John Boosey (1832-1893) is the Boosey & Co. successor
- 1886 with the death of William Pond, Root & Sons of Chicago becomes the US agent for Boosey
- 1889 now Hawkes & Son, Leicester Sq.
- 1893 Boosey now also in Manchester, #30 Blackfriars Bridge; nephew Arthur Boosey is the successor after John's death
- 1895 Hawkes & Son moves to Denman St., Piccadilly Circus
- 1910 approximate early appearance of the "Class A Solbron" model brass by Boosey & Co.
- 1917 Boosey buys J. R. LaFleur & Sons of London, another musical instrument retailer
- 1919 Leslie Boosey is successor
- 1924 Hawkes & Son opens a new factory in Edgware
- 1925 some Boosey & Co. large brass after this have the "Imperial model Solbron" label



1930 the two companies merge to form Boosey & Hawkes with their factory at Edgware; stores at Denman & Regent St.

1943 B&H buys Rudall Carte & Co.

1946 B&H buys Besson of London

1981 Buffet-Crampon becomes part of the B&H Group but does not combine manufacturing

2001 the B&H factory is moved from Edgware to Croxley and the company is renamed the Besson Group

2006 Buffet-Crampon buys out the Besson name but now makes brass instruments in Markneukirchen, Germany

Boosey & Hawkes Publishers Co. is still a separate company selling music

Boosey & Hawkes brass instrument models include “Sovereign” (professional), “Imperial” (intermediate) & “Regent” (student). “Oxford” brass were an intermediate line sold by B&H. Other models to appear were “New Century”, “Emporer” and “Sessionaire” (photo 4).

Hawkes & Son had the “Clippertone” model brass (photo 5).

Photos from Horn-u-copia or internet auctions unless noted.

Information for this history mainly from “The New Langwill Index”.

