

Kanstul Musical Instruments Inc.

Anaheim, California

- 1929 Zigmant “Zig” J. Kanstul (photo 1) is born to Zigmant & Bessie in Minneapolis, MN.
- 1952 Zig leaves a job working as a music store repairman in Kansas to work for Olds in Los Angeles.
- 1954 Olds moves to Fullerton, CA and Zig moves to Anaheim to stay with them. He learns quickly to be an expert assembler (R. Dale Olsen, in photo 4).
- 1954 Zig starts part-time work with Elden Benge.
- 1970 Zig resigns from Olds to work for Benge.
- 1972 King Musical Instruments purchases Benge and moves production from Burbank to Anaheim. They go from 8 to 150 workers as King has the Benge factory making valved brasses for the King line. Zig is now the manager for this location (Olsen).
- 1972 Zig is granted patent #3,641,863 on February 15 for his valve design.
- 1979 Zig is hired by Conn to develop their new factory in Nogales, Arizona.
- 1981 The Benge factory closes and King moves all production to Eastlake, Ohio. Zig forms Kanstul Musical Instruments, Inc. with 14 workers from the old Benge plant. He gets a contract with Boosey & Hawkes to produce Besson trumpets. He is joined by sons Jack & Mark (photo 3).
- 1982 Boosey & Hawkes sends parts to Kanstul where they assemble some student horns.
- 1980s KMI starts their own line of brass instruments in addition to the Besson line and other custom orders. They end up being the manufacturer for many prominent names in the US such as Flip Oaks, Lawler, Blackburn, and Scodwell.
- 1992 Zig makes an agreement to produce Callet trumpets.
- 1994 Zig produces a custom C/D trumpet for Roger Voisin of Boston.
- c1997 KMI drops the production of student level horns.
- 2009 KMI makes the custom Gemini trumpet for Herb Alpert.
- 2016 Zig passes away on October 31.
- 2019 Kanstul Musical Instruments closes and many of the parts and tooling were purchased by BAC Musical Instruments. BAC was to open a factory at 1219 Lydia Ave, Kansas City.

