



## Vega Trumpets - Boston - 1917 to 1966

The Vega Company purchased the Standard Band Instrument Company in 1909, and at first continued to make their high-quality cornets. With the move to 155 Columbus Ave in Boston in 1917, Vega switched to almost all trumpet production.

155 Columbus Ave Factory



## The Charles E. George Model



**Years made: 1917-1924**

**Serial # range: 6000 to 8000 then 20000 to 24500**

**Example Above: #20267 c.1920, model SB4 [author's photo]**

**Details: Bore size "SB" is for small bore = 0.435"; Bell = 4.75"; Length = 19.25"**

**Bell is the #4, which gave this the darkest tone of the three bells available in small bore (1,3,&4).**

**Hidden Bb/A quick change tuning slide, with the inner section being stopped by the two nuts.**

**Adjustable third valve slide for quick tuning adjustments.**

**Included Charles E. George model 2 mouthpiece shown here.**

**The bell was advertised to be made from one piece in French brass.**

**July 1910 patent on the valves would indicate manufacture by Blessing in Elkhart.**

**This is named after Charles E. George (1871-1954), an orchestra musician and trumpet teacher in Boston who was involved in the creation and testing of this model. He also had the Georgian model shown below.**

## The Georgian Model



**Years made: c.1920**

**Serial # range: 14633 to 14675**

**Example above with unknown serial number [auction photo].**

**Details:**     **Marked "The Georgian / Made by / Charles E. George / Boston"**  
                  **Same 1910 patent mark and bell engraving style as the Vega trumpets.**  
                  **The serial numbers fall into Vega's missing range of 8000 to 20000.**

## The Standard Model



**Years made: 1919 to c.1966**

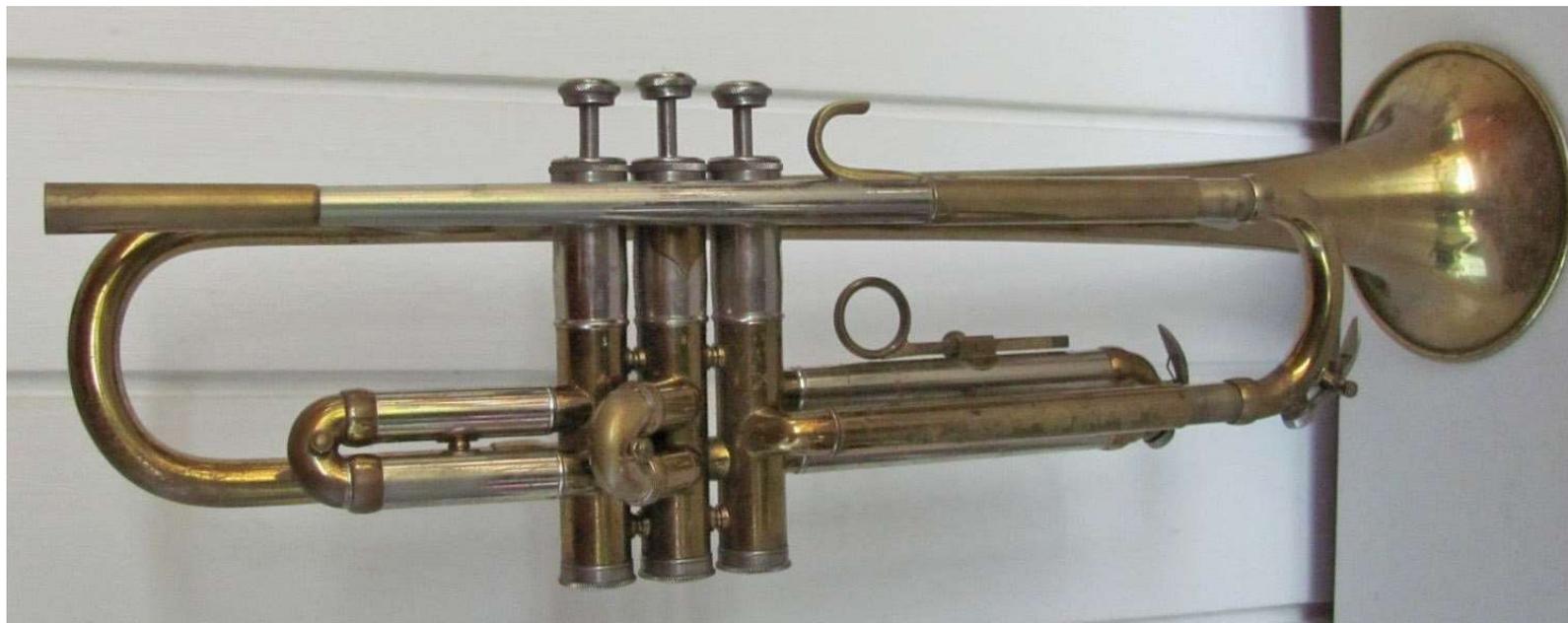
**Serial # range: 7700 to 86000**

**Example above: #21448 c.1921 [auction photo]**

**Details:** These have the same specifications as the George model and most early examples have both the Standard and George names on them. After 1924, the George name gets dropped.

Bore and Bell combinations are SB1, SB3, SB4, and LB5. The LB5 was the large bore symphony model with the #5 bell.

## The Standard Model (late)



Example above: #86317 c.1960s

Details: This appears to be an imported stencil, possibly from Germany [auction photo].

**VEGA**  
**TRUMPETS and CORNETS**

**The VEGA Is Like A Beautiful Voice**

**VEGA TRUMPET** Chas. E. George Model

**ENDORSED**  
 and recommended by Artists and Teachers who have

**PROCLAIMED**  
 it a discovery of acoustic principles unknown and unused heretofore. A world's standard trumpet.

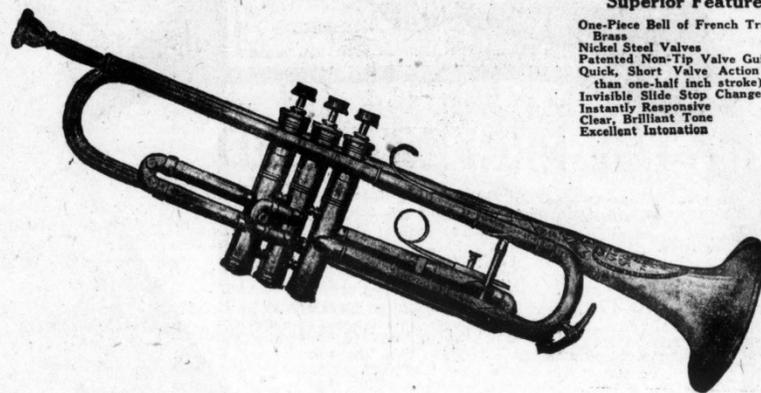
**GET ACQUAINTED**  
 with the dominating character of a good trumpet

A trial will create a

**PASSIONATE LOVE**  
 for the Vega and your profession.

SEND FOR THE **Voice of the Vega** containing full illustrations and details of these wonderful instruments.

The Vega Company  
 155 Columbus Ave Boston, Mass.



**Superior Features**  
 One-Piece Bell of French Trumpet Brass  
 Nickel Steel Valves  
 Patented Non-Tip Valve Guide  
 Quick, Short Valve Action (less than one-half inch stroke)  
 Invisible Slide Stop Change to A  
 Instantly Responsive  
 Clear, Brilliant Tone  
 Excellent Intonation

## The Trumpet with a One-Piece Bell!

**F**ROM the valve joint to the end of the flare, the bell of a Vega Trumpet is made of ONE PIECE of metal. It is hand-hammered from French trumpet brass and the tapered bore is perfectly proportioned to thousandths of an inch. This one-piece construction is practically an exclusive Vega feature. It gives the instrument a pure, clear and brilliant tone, with the most perfect intonation of any trumpet. In every detail of construction and tone you will find the Vega far superior.

There are four models—the Small Bore No. 1 has a very brilliant, penetrating tone. The Small Bore No. 3 is ideal in the dance orchestra for its tonal effect. The Small Bore No. 4 is a marvel for its flexibility, brilliancy, and power. The Large Bore No. 5 produces a powerful tone that is suitable for playing in the Symphony or Large Band. There is surely one of these models suited to your style of playing that will aid you to greater attainments.

Mail the coupon for catalog and information regarding  
**FREE TRIAL**

**THE VEGA CO.**

155-G COLUMBUS AVE.,

BOSTON, MASS.

THE VEGA CO.  
 155-155G Columbus Ave.,  
 Boston, Mass.

Kindly send me:  
 Trumpet catalog  
 Trombone catalog  
 Instrument on free trial (send 3 references)  
 Express instrument C. O. D., with free trial privilege.

Name .....

Address .....

1M-1

## The Super-Tone Model



**Years made: 1921**

**Serial # range: 21146 to 21160**

**Example above: #21146 c.1921; highly engraved and gold-plated [auction photo]**

**Details: There are only a few known examples from 1921.**

**Specifications not known.**

**This appears to be a compact Bb trumpet design with a secondary slide for A.**

**Patent 1910 Blessing valves.**

## The Artystone Model



**Years made: 1925 to 1929**

**Serial # range found: 25500 to 26500**

**Example above: #25570 c.1925; Patent 1910 Blessing valves; Patent 1915; "Semper Facile Princeps" on bell [auction photo]**

**Details: First slide saddle.**

**Tuning slide adjusting rod.**

**Bb/A rotary valve was optional.**

**Advertised as a new model in December 1925.**

**Specifications not known.**

December 1925



# Encore /

Again VEGA sets  
a new standard



*Announcing*  
The "ARTISTONE"

Vega's latest achievement is ready for the most severe critic and exacting connoisseur. The assurance of success is based upon thirty-six years of undisputed superiority of Vega-made instruments. The astounding wide range, and the pure, brilliant tone places the "Artistone" as a "standard of perfection." Designed primarily for the soloist, the Vega "Artistone" meets every requirement.

*Write for complete information and trial offer.*

Test It—Compare It

The *Vega* Co.

163-72 Columbus Ave.

Boston, Mass.

February 1926 - five trumpet models offered including the four Standard bore/bell options



*Two Most Popular Trumpets!*



*Number 4 Model*

One of the leading trumpets, possessing a brilliant, powerful tone. Adaptable for dance orchestras, bands, or solo work, and in each instance gives the player supreme confidence in playing the most difficult passages or novel features. The flexibility of this trumpet is one reason why it is preferred for all-round playing.



*Artistone Model*

Vega's latest achievement, combining the superior qualities of all other models into one "Standard of Perfection." The astounding wide range and the pure, brilliant tone place the "Artistone" as a leader of trumpets. Designed to give the greatest possible attainment in tone and appearance, primarily for the soloist, it meets every requirement.

*Write for Complete Information and Free Trial Offer*

The *Vega* Co.

163-77 Columbus Ave. Boston, Mass.

## The Medium Bore Model



**Years made:** 1928

**Serial # range:** 28117 is the only example found so far

**Example above:** #28117 c.1928 [auction photo]

**Details:** Same design as the Standard model but with a medium bore.  
1910 and 1915 patent marks.

BANJOS  
MANDOLINS  
GUITARS  
VIOLINS

# VEGA

TRUMPETS  
TROMBONES  
SAXOPHONES  
CLARINETS

163 COLUMBUS AVENUE

MANUFACTURERS and IMPORTERS

BOSTON, MASS.

## NEW MEDIUM BORE TRUMPET INTRODUCED

### "VOICE OF VEGA" NOW IN PREPARATION

*Banjoists are urged to submit photos.*

The annual publication "Voice of Vega", which is issued each year by the Vega Company, manufacturers of the world's finest banjos, is now in preparation.

The "Voice of Vega" is a publication which reached a distribution of fifty thousand last season. It bears a pictorial testimony of thousands of banjo artists, not only in United States but England, France, Greece, South Africa, Australia, South America, China, Alaska and many other foreign lands.

The issue of 1927 embodied an interesting outline of "Banjo Development", first considering the development of music, its fundamentals—rhythm, melody and harmony. And so on through the cycle of progress, from the crude drum-form to the present day electric banjo, which is so artistically portrayed with the Vega Banjos—heavy gold-plating, beautifully stained wood, pearl inlays, rich engraving and hand coloring are features which have made the Vega Banjos an object of art and admiration. The many laminations of wood which make up the banjo rim, bound with spun hoops, the laminated resonator, the triple resonator neck and genuine ebony fingerboard; the many patented features and other constructive points also bear evidence that these banjos of the "Artist's Choice" are the work of master craftsmen. And also all is the total quality of Vegaphone and Vegavox Banjos. These banjos have gained worldwide favor for their characteristic tone; rich resonant and brilliant.

The professional banjoists have given careful consideration to the quality of the banjo which they must rely on in their daily work; they realize the value of a high quality instrument as a help to their performance— invariably they have chosen VEGA. The amazing popularity, including many of the leading artists, will prove it.

### VEGA MEDIUM BORE FEATURE IMPROVEMENTS

The bell proportions are made on an entirely new design. The tonal range is increased so that the player can reach with ease either high or low extreme registers. The bell is of a one-piece, hand-hammered construction, to give the most perfect intonation.

The new Improved Vega Medium Bore Trumpet valves are light, positive and short in action. The pistons are of special nickel-silver, finished to perfect size within two-thousandths of an inch. The valve casings are of highly compositioned bronze, a metal that will not cause a corrosion of the pistons but will allow a free, easy and responsive action—the kind of valve action the trumpet player insists on having.

The Invisible A Change has no rods or screws with which to operate it. By drawing the slide it stops automatically and the trumpet is changed from Bb to A. The screw-collar on the lower slide forms the slide stop, this may be unscrewed to remove the slide.

With one water key on the tuning slide and another on the third slide, all possibilities of water noises may be conveniently eliminated.

There are many other improved features on the new Vega Medium Bore Trumpet—realization of its being a "standard of perfection" comes when once you have tried it. The assurance of success is based on nearly a half-century of undisputed superiority of Vega Instruments—therefore, YOU will be convinced once you give it a fair comparison, merit for merit.

### A NEW SCIENTIFICALLY GRADUATED BORE, VALVE-CASINGS OF NEW COMPOSITION BRONZE

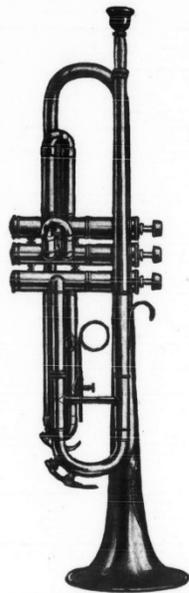
*Many have said—"Just what I've been looking for."*

Have you ever stopped to compare the size of the average orchestra today with that of but just a few years ago? If you have not then note that the orchestras today are very much larger in both number and instrumentation. For this reason the trumpet player is required to produce more volume than the trumpet player of just a few years ago in order to balance the instrumentation. Tone quality, too, is an essential item in the up-to-date orchestra. The modern "symphonic" style of arrangements requires every alert orchestra leader to be severe in his criticism of ideal quality. The up-and-coming musician today realizes that his job depends on what he can produce, therefore, the best and highest quality is what he wants.

Considering all these factors, the Vega Company has spent an endless amount of time and expense to produce trumpets that will meet the requirements of every player and every orchestra director, under every condition of performance—as a result, there is the Aristone, a adapted for the soloist in every phase of performance; to those desiring an extremely brilliant tone quality there is the "Number I"; the "Number III" is also admired for its brilliant qualities, yet are not as sharp as the Number I; then there is the popular "Number IV" whose tone is rich and powerful. These three preceding trumpets are all of a small bore, meeting the special requirements for which they have been adapted. Those who require a full bodied tone find the "Number V" best suited for their work, such as the symphony and the band.

The modern orchestra requirements, as related to in the first paragraph, have created a demand for a new trumpet construction of the highest quality. The trumpet player today needs an instrument that will enable him to produce volume, with sufficient reserve, without causing his "lips" to "overblow" or exert unnecessary pressure, and maintain a beautiful tone quality.

To meet these conditions the Vega Company introduces the new Vega Medium Bore Trumpet, scientifically graduated bore construction, special compositioned bronze valve-casings and nickel-silver pistons; workmanship throughout which bears evidence of master-craftsmanship, and artistically designed to appeal to the tastes of every lover of trumpets.



VEGA MEDIUM BORE

### VEGAGOLD-DERBY

Sparkles like a cluster of gems. Used by entire Brass Section of PAUL WHITEMAN  
PRICE \$5.00  
SPECIAL DERBY STAND \$4.00  
The VEGA Co.  
163 Columbus Ave., BOSTON

## Vega Trumpets

Vega Trumpets have won the admiration and esteem of leading musicians. They represent the highest attainable grade in construction and tonal qualities. In every detail they have artistic beauty and sturdiness.

WRITE NOW!

The VEGA Co.

163 Columbus Avenue  
BOSTON, MASS.

HANDY ILLUSTRATED  
CATALOG SENT  
ON REQUEST

## The Vegaphone and Vegavox

Beauty in Tone  
Durable Construction

Artistically  
Designed  
and the  
Artists' Choice

### VEGAPHONE—

The Artists' Choice in the four corners of the earth and in every state in the Union; leading banjoists everywhere have carefully considered the many outstanding qualities of these renowned banjos and have come to the conclusion that they are their ultimate choice.

"Professional" - \$150  
"Soloist" - 200  
"Artist" - 250  
"De Luxe" - 375  
(Fancy imitation alligator case included.)

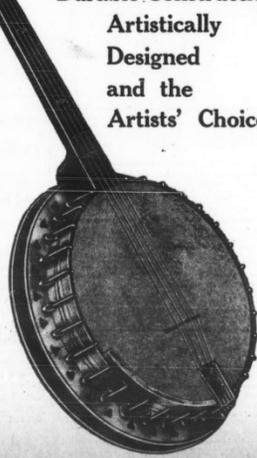
### VEGAVOX—

The Most Beautifully Voiced Banjo in History, no matter where it is played. The acoustical barriers of broadcasting and recording no longer exist; it is unequalled for solo work and ranks supreme for all artistic requirements.

"Style I" - \$200  
"Style II" - 250  
"Style III" - 300  
"Style IV" - 425  
(Fancy imitation alligator case included.)

Write for Illustrated Descriptions.

The VEGA Co.  
163 Columbus Ave., BOSTON



## The Triumphal Model



**Years made: 1929 to 1932**

**Serial # range: 29000 to 31000**

**Example above: #29100 c.1929**

**Details: Medium bore**

**Bottom spring valves**

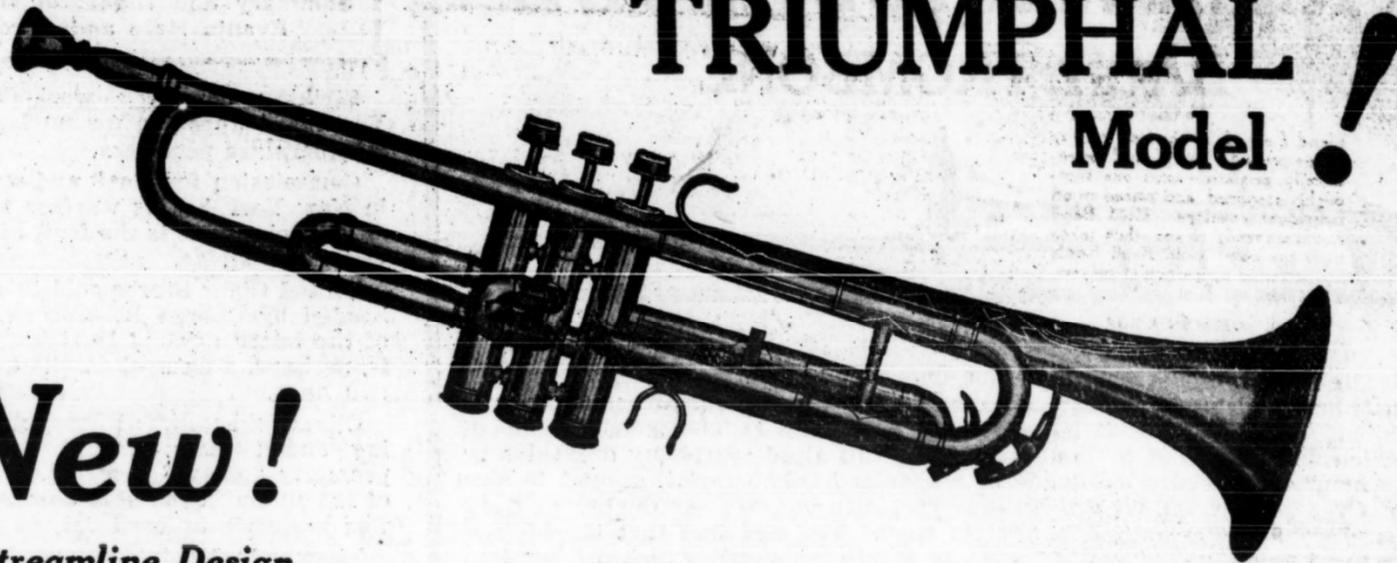
**Optional third slide finger ring.**

**Made in the popular narrow profile that many makers were experimenting with.**

**The rarity of examples compared to the Advanced Triumphal would imply that this was not a great seller.**

Late 1928

# TRIUMPHAL ! Model !



## *New!*

*Streamline Design  
Non-Corrosive Valves  
Single Piston Guide  
Lower Valve Action  
Countersunk Valve Top  
Lighter Valves*

*Complete with new style  
Alligator Imitation  
Case, plush lined, and  
with Vegaloid Mute.*

*Medium Bore.*

**S**TYLE, construction and tone; everything the name implies—TRIUMPHAL. This new improved “streamline” trumpet is light, balanced, and graceful in design. The countersunk valve-top cap feature gives you a speedy, accurate and more comfortable fingering. This feature in conjunction with the balanced design facilitates your control, speeds up and smoothens your technique, enables you to build up your velocity of performance and develops a smooth, rich, brilliant tonal quality.

**Triumphal in every respect—tone, style, construction.**

*Write for complete information and free catalogs.*

155 Columbus Ave.

**The VEGA Co.**

Boston, Mass.

## The Advanced Triumphal Model



**Years made: 1932 to 1936**

**Serial # range: 33000 to 36000**

**Example above: #33014 c.1933 [author's photo]**

**Details: 19.5" long; 4.75" bell; medium bore**

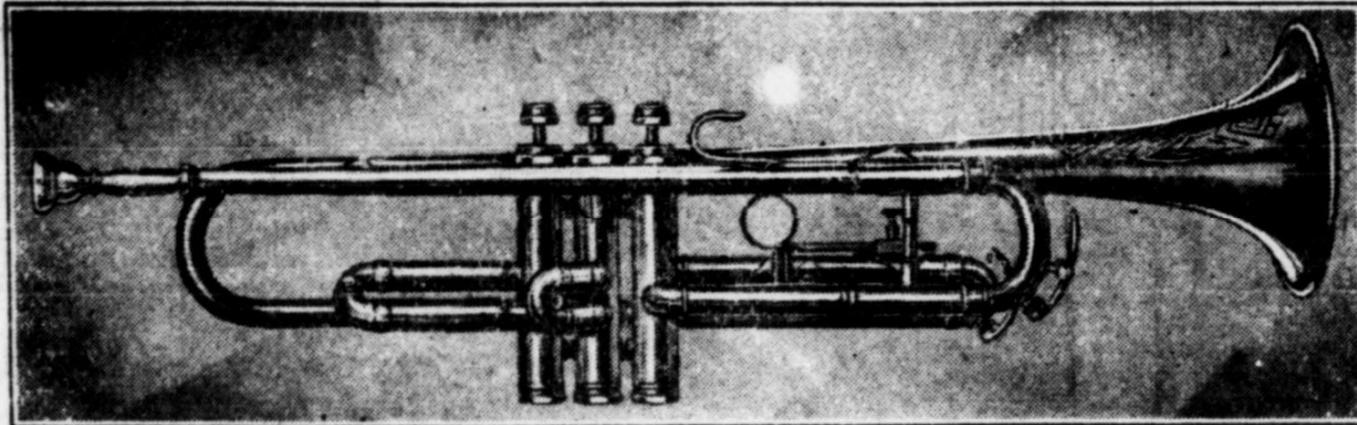
**"Pat. Apl'd For" on middle valve casing [I have not found a matching patent.]**

**Octagon valve caps and buttons.**

**The third slide ring has been moved to the top.**

**Bottom spring valves.**

# ADVANCED TRIUMPHAL



**Burnished Valves  
Recessed Action  
Playing Flexibility  
Greater Power  
Distinctive Design**

▼  
**Ask your dealer  
or write direct for  
FREE illustrated  
folder . .**

**N**OW it is here. The finest of all instruments is now available at a new low price. New, greatly improved models, too!

You will naturally insist on seeing the new Vega. Notice its distinctive appearance with octagon design trimmings and exclusive Vega recessed valve action and, most of all, the definite improvement in playing and tone quality.

New style Gladstone case included as equipment without extra charge.

**Lower in price, but finer than ever.**

**163 Columbus Av. VEGA Boston, Mass.**

## The Power Model (1<sup>st</sup> Version)



**Years made: 1936 to c.1952**

**Serial # range: 36000 to 41500**

**Example above: #40037 c.1950; original Vega D1 mouthpiece [author's photo]**

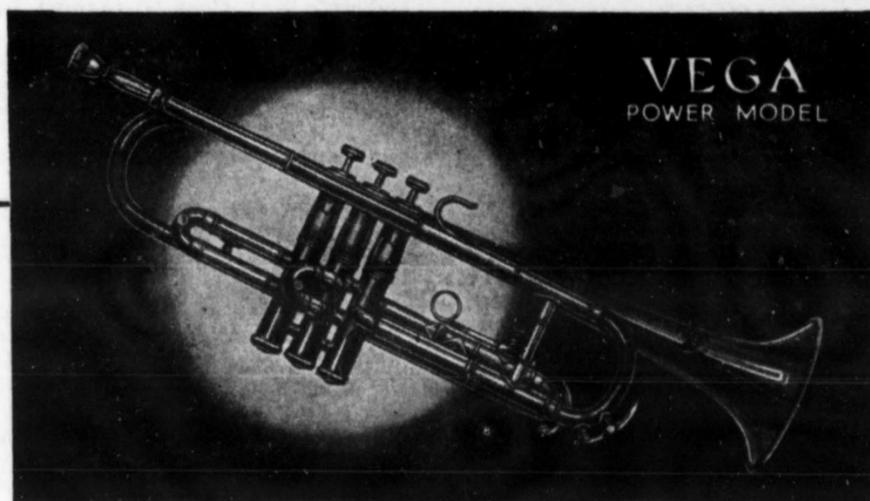
**Details: 19.5" long; 4.75" bell; 0.458" bore**

**Hidden Bb/A quick change in the two-section tuning slide.**

**This was a very popular model that helped Vega survive for a few more years.**

**Were these valves made by King? They have the same lead pipe braces.**

October 1936



## MORE POWER TO YOU WITH THE NEW VEGA!

All the power you may want or that any leader may call for, instantly and freely! That is what the new Power Model Trumpet or Cornet will give you with full tonal clarity and easier true response to all notes, high or low, with the effect of brilliancy or roundness desired.

In every way this new Vega Power Model is incomparable and it features the recessed valve action and a one-piece bell. It is well worth a special trip to your Vega dealer to see this new model.

### **Prominent Men Play Power Model**

Charles Teagarden (*Paul Whiteman*) • Louis Prima (*Primastyle Orchestra*) • Barry Drews, Grady Watts, Bobby Jones (*Casa Loma*) • Ray Woods, Bob Hudson (*Ben Bernie*) • Michael Renzulli (*Irving Aaronson*) • Lou Breese (*N. B. C. Artist*) • Jack Cavan, Muggsy Spanier, Bob Clithero (*Ted Lewis*)

*Ask Your Dealer or Write Direct for Circular*

# THE VEGA CO.

163 Columbus Avenue

Boston, Mass.

## The Power Model (2<sup>nd</sup> Version)



**Years made: 1947 to 1954**

**Serial # range: 38500 to 42500**

**Example above: #38509 c.1947 [auction photo]**

**Details:** This model has quite a few changes from the earlier one, which suggests a different source as the maker. These sometimes carry the “Fred Berman” name; a well-known trumpet teacher and radio staff performer in the Boston area. He was born in New Jersey in 1902 and died in Boston in 1954.



1947 Power Model

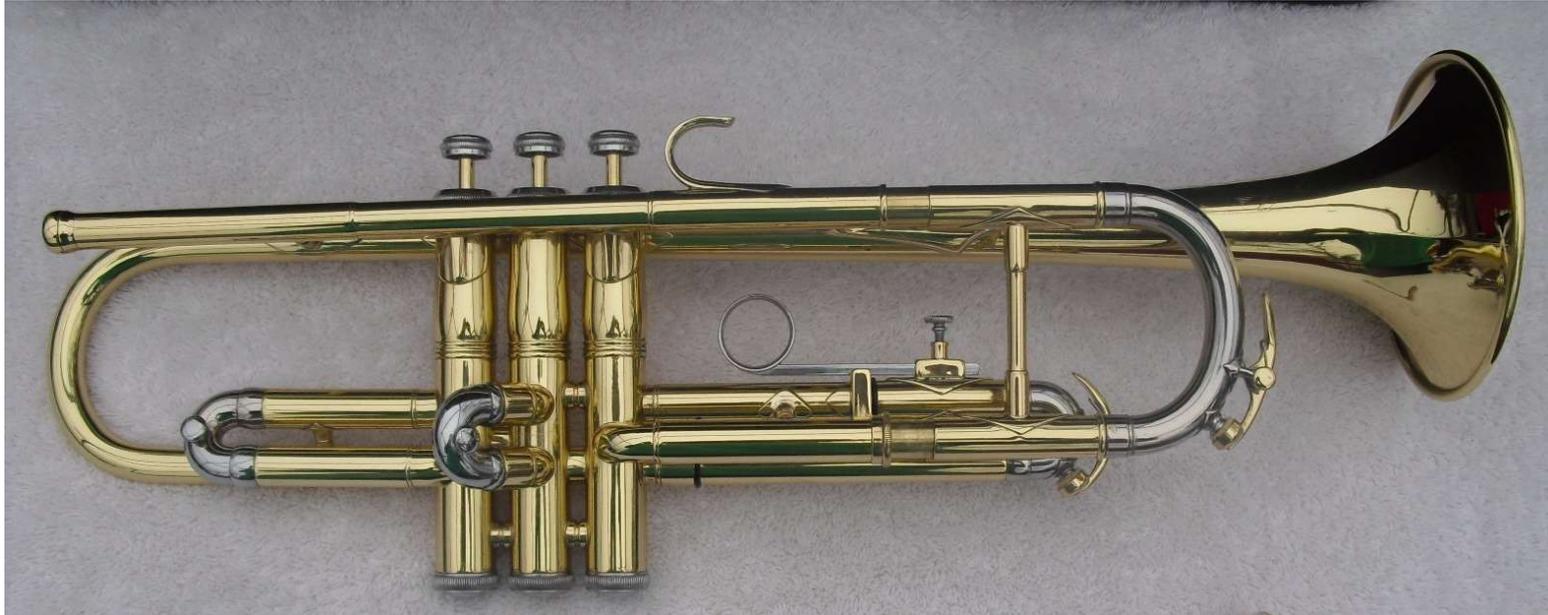


1949 Power Model



**“HA!” Conte’s Vega Powered!** New York—That’s right, Charlie, Conte’s new VEGA POWER TRUMPET is as sensational as your great new Victor recording, “HA”, flipped with “High on an Open Mike.” Trumpeters, there’s plenty of Candoli on both sides! By the way, have you sent for your free copy of “The Power Trumpet”? Better write today to The Vega Company, 155 Columbus Avenue, Boston 16, Massachusetts.

## The High Voice Model



**Years made: 1950**

**Serial # range: 40000**

**Example above: #40143 c.1950; the only know example found so far**

**Details: This appears to be a first-generation Power model with a ten-sided bell crease.**



## The Power Special Model



**Years made: c.1954 to 1960s**

**Serial # range: 46000 to 97500**

**Example above: #97525 c.1960s [auction photo]**

**Details: This appears to be the same design and maker as the earlier Power model.**

**After serial number 55000, there are large gaps in the numbers and few examples found.**

## The Commander Model



**Years made: unknown**

**Serial # range: #8316, shown above, is the only know example [Horn-u-copia.net]**

**Details: This appears to have the same valves as the Power Special but the photo is too small to be certain.**

## The Odell Model



**Years made: unknown; probably the 1950s**

**Serial # range: 52000 to 103000**

**Example above: #52186 c.1950; stencil of the American Triumph model made by Harry Pedler & Son in Elkhart.**

**Details: #103284 has the same design; 4.625" bell; 0.445" bore; if a Pedler serial number then c.1958**

## The Triumphal Model (2<sup>nd</sup> version)



Years made: unknown; probably the 1950s if the case is original

Serial # range: 144251 is the only example I have so far

Example above: #144251

Details: not sure of the source for this one; no country of origin marking

