

Vega Standard & George Trumpets

1917 – 1950s

When Vega purchased the Standard Band Instrument Company in 1909, they retained the name but added the Vega name within a star as their logo. This comes from Vega being the brightest star in the northern constellation of Lyra.

Vega was making just cornets until 1917 when they moved to 155 Columbus Ave in Boston (photo 2 from 1923) and switched making almost exclusively trumpets. I have only found a few examples of trumpets from before 1917, and one had no model name on it (#5396).

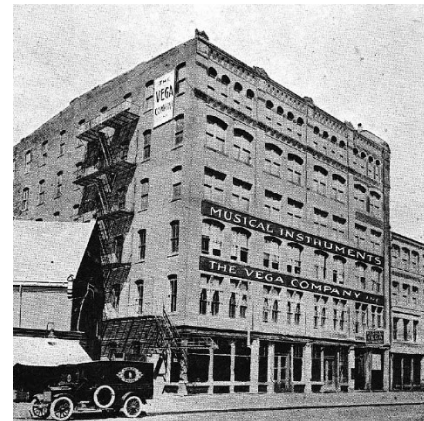
With the move in 1917, the Standard Band Instrument Co. name was dropped, and the trumpet model was now the Vega Standard. Many of these also add the “Chas. E. George” model name for Charles George, a musician, inventor, and company executive. Since there doesn't appear to be any difference between them, I have combined both Standard and George models here.

Charles E. George Special model #6213 c.1917.
0.406” bore and 4.5” bell

This was made at the Sudbury St location before the move.



Chas. E. George model SB-3 #6571 c.1917 (author's photo).
This is an early Columbus Ave example.



The Standard / George models came in four bell tapers and two bore sizes. This was stamped on the middle valve behind the bell (photo 1 by author).

SB-1: 0.435" small bore; #1 bell; brightest tone

SB-3: 0.435" small bore; #3 bell; dance bands

SB-4: 0.435" small bore; #4 bell at 4.75"

LB-5: 0.468" large bore; #5 bell at 4.65"; symphony work

Chas. E. George model LB-5 #7416 c.1919 (below & at right).



This has the new logo that was used for many years.



VEGA
TRUMPETS and CORNETS

TONE
In graduating the Bell taper we have created a voice that portrays the Colatura Soprano so much desired by composers and Orchestra Conductors.

TUNE
There is no break in the scale from the lowest notes to the highest. You do not vary the pitch in swelling the tone from *pianissimo* to *fortissimo*.

CONSTRUCTION
Durability and workmanship unsurpassed by any other makers in the world.

BELL
One piece hammered into shape made from French Trumpet Brass (Courtois Formula).

VALVES
American system of single seamless tubing for casings.
Pistons of non-corrosive nickel silver.
Patented non-tip star spring carrier.
Perfectly fitted and ground.
A trial will create a passionate love for the Vega and your profession.
Write before you forget.

PHRASING
The Vega Standard is the only Trumpet on which the songs and delicate phrasing can be made with greater ease and expression than on a Cornet. The longer you play the Vega Standard, the stronger the lips feel which makes your work pleasant and happy, free from weariness and regrets.

COMPARISON.
In a number of actual tests playing with forty piece orchestras the Tone of the Vega Standard Trumpets carries farther and with more pleasing musical qualities compared with the pet Trumpets used by the performers before.
Distinction expressed in that:
"The Vega is Like a Beautiful Voice."
"The Trumpet with a Soul."

The Vega Company
155 Columbus Ave. Boston - Mass.

The 1918 ad at left says that they used one-piece bells made from Courtois-formula French brass.

These early trumpets also used valves made by Blessing in Elkhart with their July 1910 patent for the valve guides.

This June 1919 ad below is from Jacob's Monthly.

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 un-
known 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.

155 Columbus Ave **The Vega Company** Boston, Mass.

Chas. E. George model SB-4 #7849 from 1919.



Bell from #6571 above.



Custom engraving was a rare option for Vega.

This July 1919 ad featured an endorsement by Walter Smith.

VEGA

WALTER M. SMITH

After the performance of the *Messiah* by The Handel and Haydn Society on December 23d last, I think I am justified in saying that I consider the Vega Trumpet **THE WORLD'S STANDARD TRUMPET**, and that the whole performance from the Hallelujah Chorus to "The Trumpet Shall Sound" exceeded my fondest expectations, and I might add the emphatic endorsement of Mr. Stewart and the assurance from Mr. Mollenhauer that I had never played so well in my life, and nearly every member of the orchestra came to me after the performance and told me they had never heard my tone sound so beautiful. I am proud to endorse the Vega Trumpet.

Wishing you the best of luck during the New Year and all other years, I remain,
Very truly yours,
WALTER M. SMITH

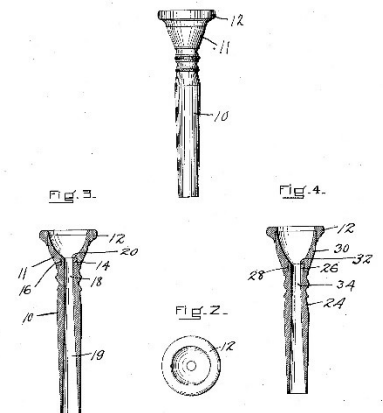
Teacher of Cornet and Trumpet
First Trumpet, Boston Band
Boston Festival Orchestra
Conductor, Waltham Watch Company Band

THE VEGA COMPANY
155 Columbus Ave. Boston, Mass.



Vega serial numbers went to just under 8000, then suddenly switched to 20000. From this point until WWII, they appear to use the first two digits as the year made and the last three as the sequence.

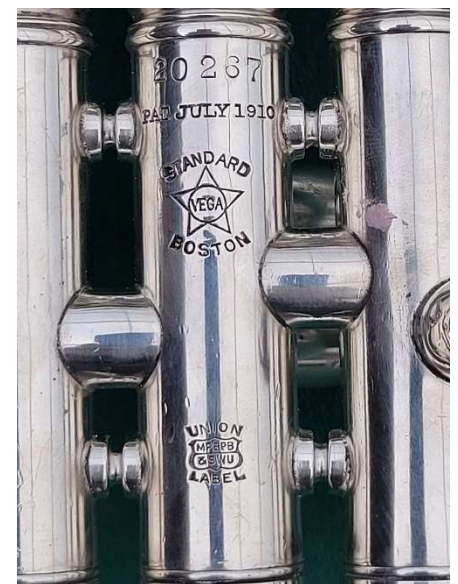
Photo 2 shows a typical mouthpiece from 1920. Charles George received patent #1,178,513 in 1916 for a mouthpiece (#3 at right), which was probably the basis for Vega's design.



Standard/George model SB-4 #20154 from 1920.



Std/George model SB-4 #20267 from 1920 (author's photos).



Vega joined the brass workers' union in 1913 and used the mark until 1921. They stayed with the union until 1928.

1921 Jacob's Monthly ad for the Standard trumpet.

The Famous Vega Standard Trumpets

**Interesting announcement of
PRICE REDUCTION**
on these famous instruments

IN keeping with the trend of the times and general business conditions, we announce a 20% reduction on prices of this famous line of Trumpets, Cornets and entire line of Brass Instruments.

THE same high standard of workmanship and materials will be maintained and no pains will be spared in producing these high grade instruments.

IT is the aim and policy of this Company to make the very highest grade instruments which shall meet the most critical demands of the professional musicians and sell as reasonable as possible, consistent with high grade workmanship, hand hammered bells, accurate scale, correct intonation and ability to stand up and give years of satisfaction to the performer.

THE VEGA COMPANY

Makers of the HIGHEST GRADE INSTRUMENTS in the World

155 Columbus Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts



Standard model #21448 from 1921 (below & #2 at right).



Standard/George model #22333 from 1922.



Std/George model SB-3 #22386 from 1922 (author's photos).



Standard/George model #23000 from 1923.



Standard/George model #24293 from 1924.



Standard/George model #24352 from 1924 (below & right).



Standard/George model SB-3 #24385 from 1924.




Standard model SB-4 #24554 from 1924.

At this time the George name was replaced by "Semper Facile Princeps" (always an easy leader) (below & top right).



#26328 from 1926

April 1923 ad from International Musician.



VEGA

TRUMPETS and CORNETS

A REPUTATION

The hardest thing to gain, and once gained to hold, is, we believe, a Reputation.

The Famous Vega Trumpets have not only gained and held the most envied reputation the past few years, but are each day adding to their untarnished lustre the laurels showered upon them by many of the most noted performers, who (with the greatest respect for their personal ability) are, we believe, being assisted in a large degree by playing The Famous Vegas.

The old saying, "The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating," is just as true today as ever, and no stronger proof is needed than the fact that they are preferred and used by the artists of our most noted orchestras, such as

Whitman's	California Ramblers	McEnelly's	Benson's
Ferdinando's	Griswold's	Bert Lowe's	Fandel's
Rohde's	Crescent Gardens	Krulee's—Hotel Westminster	(Boston)
Riseman's—Hotel Brunswick	(Boston)	Holmes'—American House	(Boston)
Boyle's—Copley Plaza	(Boston)	Morey Pearls'—Terrace Gardens	(Boston)

<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Trumpets</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cornets</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trombones</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Baritones</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Basses</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drums</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Trumpets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cornets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trombones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Baritones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basses	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Watch for our Percentage ad. in our next issue.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Banjos</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mandolins</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guitars</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lutes</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saxophones</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clarinets</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Banjos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandolins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guitars	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Saxophones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarinets	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CHECK INSTRUMENTS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

The Vega Company

155 Columbus Ave. Boston, Mass.





MR. JOSEPH SUMMERHILL
Cleveland,
Ohio

Prominent
Teacher,
Artist and
Critic

VEGA TRUMPETS

Prominent as a teacher, artist, and critic, Mr. Joseph Summerhill may well be regarded as one of the leaders in the advancement of musical instruments. In his home city, Mr. Summerhill is well known by the music lovers as a thorough musician; his masterful teaching has developed many talented pupils, among whom are some of the best artists in the country.

In a recent letter Mr. Summerhill writes concerning his frank opinion of Vega Trumpets: "Vega Instruments are

the most satisfactory of any I know of; they have a clear, resonant tone quality, excellent for song playing as well as effective in large or small Orchestra or Band. Its quick response and beautiful voice make it a splendid instrument for playing solos, and its clear, penetrating and resonant tone in fortissimo is a combination of qualities most desirable for the artist."

Vega Trumpets are obtainable in two bores and four bell tapers; there is surely one of these models that will more than fulfill your personal requirements of a fine instrument.

Tear out this coupon, fill in and mail for information and catalogs on all instruments—Brass, Woodwind, String—and accessories.

Name..... Instrument.....

Address

THE VEGA CO.

155 COLUMBUS AVE. BOSTON, MASS.

VEGA TRUMPETS



Reisman Praises the Vega Trumpet

ARTISTIC interpretation of modern dance music has placed Leo Reisman's Orchestra in the limelight as a distinctive organization. Under Mr. Reisman's direction the orchestra produces music of rare charm, with many pleasing novel effects. The Orchestra's recent engagement at Keith's Theatre in Boston proved exceedingly successful. Reporting for Columbia will spread nationally the fame of Reisman and the skillful artists of his organization. Mr. Herman Brenner, the trumpeter, recently purchased an artist finish Vega

Trumpet. He is enthusiastic over the beautiful tone of the instrument. Mr. Reisman praises the Vega Trumpet for its fine tone quality, blending perfectly with the ensemble and still giving brilliancy and volume. You will find the Vega Trumpet, with its pure, brilliant tone and true intonation, your ideal instrument. Instantly responsive to the slightest breath—you can play long engagements with ease and enjoyment. Visit the Vega agency in your locality, or write direct for catalog and information.

THE VEGA CO.
155 COLUMBUS AVE. BOSTON, MASS.

VEGA TRUMPETS



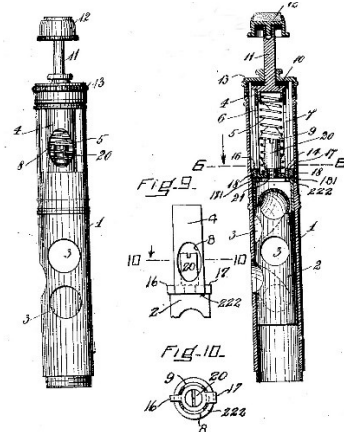
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the beautiful tone of this instrument. Mr. Reisman praises the Vega Trumpet for its fine tone quality, blending perfectly with the ensemble and still giving brilliancy and volume. The photo reproduced here was taken when Mr. Reisman publicly congratulated Mr. Brenner upon his extraordinary playing and his marvelous instrument. You will find the Vega Trumpet, with its pure, brilliant tone and true intonation, your ideal instrument.

THE VEGA COMPANY
155 Columbus Ave. BOSTON, MASS.
Makers of the Vegaophone Banjo

A new valve spring base with post invented by Peter Tottle for Vega received patent #1,547,272 in 1925 (below & at right).



April 1925 International Musician ad.

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!

FROM 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 privileges.

Name
 Address
 1M-4



As this photo shows, they are now using a two-piece bell.



The "Pat'd" mark probably refers to the 1925 spring base patent.

Examples of the Standard model have been found up through 1929 before being replaced by the Triumphal model. They re-appear in 1937 and use the same design as the more popular Power model introduced in 1936.

Standard #37161 c.1937 (below & top right).



Standard #39092 from 1939 (below & top right).



By this time, the bell engraving has been simplified.

Standard #53674 (Horn-u-copia.net)



The post-WWII Standard model is based on the updated Power model and may be a stencil made in Elkhart.

Standard #57682 (below & 2nd on right)



Standard #86317 – the highest # found – imported stencil?

