Brēv,brev
1. (music) a note having the time value of two whole notes
2. (gen) brief, short

Trumpet Trivia!

Trumpet-like instruments are about 3500 years old. Early trumpets were made from shell and wood. Modern trumpets are made from brass. Early trumpets did not have valves and keys. These were added around 1820.

Modern trumpets are made from brass. Early trumpets did not have valves and keys. These were added around 1820.

This is what a trumpet would have looked like in the Baroque era

For centuries, all brass instruments were valveless. This limited how many notes could be played. The solution was to add a few valves to the instrument; three is usually enough. The most common types of trumpets use piston valves, and some use rotary valves.

Even though a trumpet has only 3 valves it can produce 45 distinct notes. Each valve opens an extra length of tube, making the instrument a little longer, and making more notes playable. Today there are many different varieties within families of trumpets...
Ride the Bus to Concerts!

KMS provides a free bus ride to each concert, with two pickup locations in West Bend. For the concert on February 23, the bus will pick up at the Senior Center at 1:00 and Cedar Ridge apartments at 1:10. Please call 262-343-0007 to confirm you will be riding. Cedar Ridge residents can sign up in the binder in the Bistro.

Support your symphony orchestra!

Go to our donations page and click the PayPal Donate button.

https://kmsymphony.org/orchestra-donations/

Or send a check to
Kettle Moraine Symphony
P.O. Box 52
West Bend, WI 53095

It’s that simple! Thank you.

February’s Composer Biographies

Richard Strauss (1864–1949) was a leading German classical composer of the late Romantic and early modern eras best known for his operas Der Rosenkavalier and Salome, based on the play by Oscar Wilde. Hitler was a strong supporter of Strauss' work and he was allowed to continue performing even while the works of Debussy, Mahler and Mendelssohn were being banned during the Nazi regime.
Matthew Walker has performed and recorded across the globe, and even crossed oceans to come to Wisconsin to build custom trombones. A native of Australia, Matthew was working toward his bachelor’s degree at the Sydney Conservatorium in Music when he won a full-time job with the Australian Opera at the age of 21. He spent the next 16 years as bass trombonist with the Sydney Opera performing on tenor, bass and contrabass trombones for standard opera repertoire as well as many world premieres. He also performed with the Australian Youth Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, the well renowned John and James Morrison’s big band-Swing City, Queensland Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and later the Milwaukee Symphony, Milwaukee Ballet and Skylight Opera. He has also been heard in numerous TV commercials and background music scores, including the national anthems of countries recorded for the Australian Commonwealth Games in Sydney in 2006. He played contrabass trombone for the “Salem’s Lot” motion picture soundtrack.

In 2006, Matthew took a leave of absence from the Australian Opera and traveled to America to build trombones for a local custom trombone manufacturer. After that business closed, Matthew, along with his business partner decided to open their own instrument manufacturing shop concentrating exclusively on trombones. They designed, and now build, their own brand of instruments of the highest quality at M&W Custom Trombones in Jackson, WI. M&W trombones are now played all over the world. You may have seen a segment about M&W on the John McGiver show! Matthew’s first season with the Kettle Moraine Symphony was in 2008.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was a musician capable of playing multiple instruments, who started playing in public at the age of 6. Over the years, Mozart aligned himself with a variety of European venues and patrons, composing hundreds of works that included sonatas, symphonies, masses, chamber music, concertos and operas, marked by vivid emotion and sophisticated textures.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was a German pianist and composer considered to be one of the greatest musical geniuses of all time. Musicians the world over are celebrating his 250th birth year in 2020. He is the crucial transitional figure connecting the Classical and Romantic ages of Western music. Beethoven’s personal life was marked by a struggle against deafness, and some of his most important works were composed during the last 10 years of his life, when he was quite unable to hear. He died at the age of 56.

Morten Lauridsen (1943-present) is one of the most performed living composers in the country. Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California (USC) Thornton School of Music for more than 35 years, he is often considered America’s greatest contemporary composer of choral music. One of his most beloved works, “O Magnum Mysterium” will be performed by the KMS brass at the February 23 concert. Lauridsen is a recipient of numerous grants, prizes, and commissions. He chaired the Composition Department at the USC Thornton School of Music (1990–2002) and founded the School’s Advanced Studies Program in Film Scoring. He was Composer-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale (1995–2001) and has held residencies as a guest composer/lecturer at more than two dozen universities. He divides his time now between Los Angeles and his summer cabin on a remote island off the northern coast of Washington State. He was named an “American Choral Master” by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2005. https://www.arts.gov/honors/medals/morten-lauridsen

Biographies courtesy of Biography.com
Who was your most influential music teacher? I studied for a short time with Michael Mulcahy, now with the Chicago Symphony. Mr Mulcahy taught me to obey the composer’s intentions! This led to an interest in studying the history of various composers, the times that they lived in and how that affects interpretation of music. Also, my father instilled a real sense that playing with a beautiful tone is the most important aspect of performance.

When did you start playing? At age nine, in the brass band of my hometown of Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia.

What do you enjoy most about playing? The constant challenge of being a better player than you were yesterday.


What is your favorite musical memory? Playing for Luciano Pavarotti for his Sydney concerts in 2005.

What advice would you give to young musicians? Practice with a purpose. If you settle for mediocre when you practice, all you are doing is getting better at being mediocre!

All the info you need is at https://www.kmsymphony.org!

Kids! Bring your parents or grandparents to Kettle Moraine Symphony’s next free Music-Literature-Craft educational music program to be held at:

West Bend Community Memorial Library on February 15, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

The program is designed and facilitated by WBSD music teachers who are members of the symphony. Geared for Ages 4-9.