

VINCENT BACH

A DIVISION OF CONN - SELMER INC.

RELEVANT DATES

1918 --- Bach began mouthpiece production in New York

1922 --- Bach moved to second factory

1924 --- First Bach trumpets manufactured

1928 --- Bach Trombone designs completed

1953 --- Bach factory relocated to Mount Vernon, NY

1961 --- Vincent Bach Corp. purchased by Selmer (USA)

1965 --- Production began at the Elkhart, IN plant

TRUMPETS & CORNETS

Serial Number	Year Manufactured
14	1925
200 - 400	1926 Appolo Models
500	1926
600	1927
900	1928
* 8600 - 8700	1928
1450	1930
2250	1935
* 10,000	1939 Mercury Models
4650	1940
5500	1941
6500	1945

9100	1950
12,000	1953 Moved from Bronx to Mr. Vernon
13,600	1955
* 30,000 - 33,000	1955 Mercury Models
19,500	1960
21,000	1961 Purchased by Selmer (USA)
24,000	1964
30,000	1965 Moved to Elkhart, IN
50,000	1970
100,000	1974
112,000	1975
175,000	1980
200,000	1981
230,000	1983
250,000	1985
336,000	1990
420,000	1994

TROMBONES

Serial Number	Year Manufactured
8600-8799 Apollo	1928
1	1929
200	1933
400	1935
10,000-10,999 Mercury	1939
1600	1940
2200	1942
2500	1945
3450	1950
4500	1955
5700	1960

5950	1961
6900	1964
8000	1965
11,800	1970
17,500	1975
25,000	1977
39,000	1979
45,000	1981
55,000	1983
65,000	1985
91,000	1990
115,000	1994

Born Vincent Schrottenbach in Vienna, Austria in 1890, Vincent's early musical training was received on the violin. Later, his musical interest and musical intrigue turned to the trumpet. As a young student, Vincent showed an interest and aptitude for science, and later, graduated with an engineering degree from the Maschinenbauschule. With a continued interest in music, he turned his professional interest to that of trumpet performance, taking the professional name of Vincent Bach while in England. Vincent eventually ended-up in New York City during WWI with, according to legend, only \$5.00 in his pocket. While in New York, he gained employment working in vaudeville through connections with the famous Oscar Hammerstein and his brother Arthur. After sending a letter of introduction to the conductor of the Boston Symphony, Karl Muck, he was invited to audition, and received a position in the symphony. The following year, Vincent held the position of principal trumpet in the Metropolitan Opera and Ballet orchestras. He, in fact, performed the American premiere of Stravinsky's Petroushka and Firebird Suite. While on tour in Pittsburgh, a local repair technician tried to make improvements on Vincent's personal trumpet mouthpiece. After the tech effectively ruined his mouthpiece, Vincent searched desperately to find a replacement, and soon discovered how difficult it was to locate a mouthpiece of reasonable quality. This motivated Vincent to begin to learn as much about mouthpieces as he could. In the beginning Vincent practiced on old mouthpieces and eventually began to make new ones in a back room of the Selmer Music Store in New York City. In 1918, he purchased a foot-operated lathe for \$300, and opened a small work shop and office at 11 East 14th St. and began manufacturing his own mouthpieces. To make ends meet, he continued playing part-time at the Rivoli Theater. His mouthpiece business grew, slowly at first, but eventually prospered into a booming success. In 1924 he expanded his business to begin manufacturing trumpets. Early players of his trumpets often referred to his trumpets as "a real Stradivarius", hence, the name Bach Stradivarius. Trombone manufacture followed in 1928. This was a very risky time for business, as the stock market "crash", and the resulting Great Depression was soon to follow. There continued to be a strong demand for his instruments and mouthpieces, however. In 1961, at the age of 71, Bach put his company up for sale. After receiving a dozen offers to purchase the company, he chose to sell his company to The Selmer Company (even though Selmer was not the highest bidder). Following the sale, all the tooling and machinery was moved to Selmer's Elkhart operation. Vincent remained with the company for a while to aid

in the training of the Selmer staff. Note: Vincent Bach used the trade names of Stradivarius, Mercedes, Mercury, Minerva, & Apollo. For some unknown reason, Bach numerical order varies from time to time. For example, in 1928 the Apollo serial numbers were 8600 - 8700. In 1939 the Mercury models had serial numbers in the 10,000's. The first Minerva (#2722) was manufactured in 1958.

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