

Baldwin Band Instruments

Elkhart, Indiana

In the late 1960s, the Baldwin Piano Company decided to add band instruments to their offerings. Their 1969 catalog shows three lines of brass: the student level “Special”, the intermediate level “Custom”, and the professional level “Baldwin”.

Brass offered were cornets, trumpets, trombones, French horns, baritones, and a Sousaphone. These appear to be stencils made by Blessing in Elkhart. The Baldwin TU403 trumpet in the 1969 catalog looks very much like the Blessing Masterpiece model from the same year.

According to the 1969 catalog, these were distributed through the Fred Gretsch Company located in New York, Chicago, and Elmhurst, Illinois.

It’s likely that this was a short-lived venture as all the examples found appear to be the same design and have a limited serial number sequence. Perhaps the fact that, at this time, several large US band instrument makers started having Yamaha make their student models contributed to the end for Baldwin.

The serial numbers for cornets should start with “30”, which relates to their model numbers, followed by a four-digit production sequence number. Trumpets all start with “40”.

