

April 11, 2017

To Whom It May Concern

I am in the trumpet business. For nearly 40 years, I have played and taught professionally. I work in recording studios and orchestras, and as a concert soloist. In my shop, I design, custom-build, and restore professional and historic wind instruments. Part of my professional playing includes the use of piccolo trumpets, both in A and Bb. I hand-built the two piccolo trumpets that I use in my performances. I enjoy playing piccolo trumpet, and am well-versed in its design and playing characteristics.

A few days ago, UPS delivered a Cool Winds plastic piccolo trumpet, sent to me for testing and evaluation. Given my profession and background, you can understand that I was somewhat cynical. Although I already have a couple of plastic Bb trumpets, the idea of a plastic piccolo trumpet was just too bizarre to take seriously. I was in for a big shock.

When the horn arrived, I immediately took it out, put in the plastic mouthpiece that came with it, and launched into Mouret's Rondeau. You know, the old Masterpiece Theatre theme music. I played an excerpt, up to the high F, and then suddenly remembered that I was playing on a PLASTIC PICCOLO TRUMPET. I had to set the horn down, and just sit and think about it for a minute. More excerpts from various orchestral works followed, and I became more and more surprised. After playing a bit with the plastic mouthpiece, I changed to my usual picc. mouthpiece (an 85-year-old original Bach 10 1/2C) and the results were even more exciting.

The response, intonation, valve-action, and tonal quality were great. Certainly NOT what I expected from a hunk of plastic. Over the next several days, I really put the plastic picc. through its paces. Brandenburg #2, The Magnificat, The Trumpet Shall Sound, and other works, were all played, and the result was truly astounding. This thing really plays! It is not a toy or a gimmick – it is an honest-to-goodness real piccolo trumpet. Yes it is painted blue, yes it is plastic, yes it is made in some far-off country. But who cares ? IT PLAYS!!!

This could be the perfect first piccolo trumpet, for an aspiring young trumpet player. A piccolo trumpet is not for every trumpet player – it is a specialized instrument requiring special techniques, careful practice, and often a different mouthpiece. This horn would be just the ticket, for someone who wants to learn the picc. but does not want to spend many hundreds of dollars – perhaps thousands of dollars – to acquire their first picc. At \$300 a pop, these little horns are a great bargain. They are definitely not just a novelty item. Without reservation, I can heartily recommend these little horns.

Steve Hubbard

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