

## Child prodigies in brass – a selection of vintage images of children who played brass instruments

*Gavin Holman, February 2020*

Over the years there have been many outstanding child musicians who have excelled at their particular instrument(s). Some of these went on to become accomplished adult artists and/or composers, others disappeared in the mists of time. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century in particular, children who showed musical promise were often exploited, as solo artists or within family ensembles or “professional” groups, their youth and musical ability being an attractive novelty to audiences.

Of the images below, a number have clearly been staged with the child merely holding the instrument, and these are left to the end. For the others, sadly, there are few details about the individual players, they are largely anonymous. Nevertheless they are a fascinating glimpse, albeit limited, into the world of the child performer – some of whom gained national popularity, particularly in the USA.





THE MISSES GERTIE AND FLOSSIE EDGCOMBE. The World's Youngest Cornet and Violin Duetists



*Florrie Horsfield - Baildon*







? - Hanover, Pennsylvania



MASTER HARRY BROWN ALLEN  
5 YEAR OLD CORNET SOLOIST.



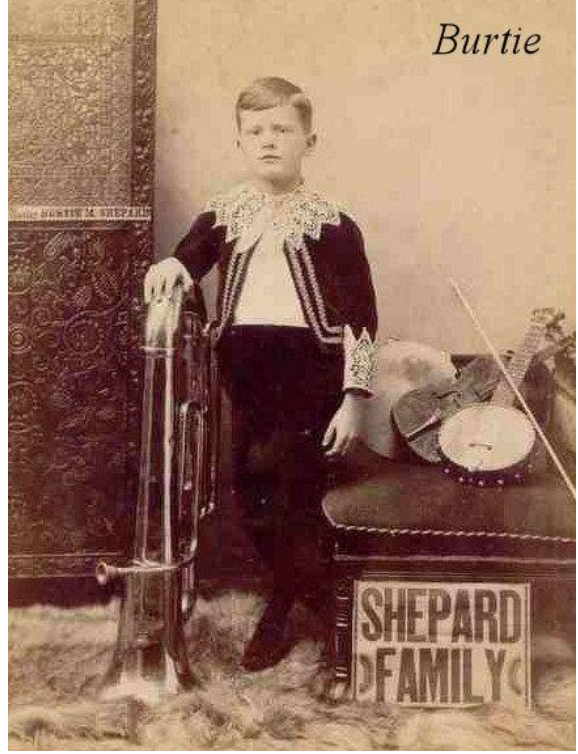
? - New York City



CISSIE WELCH,  
The Phenomenal Child Cornet Soloist.



*Ronald Thompson-Laing  
Liverpool Brass Band*



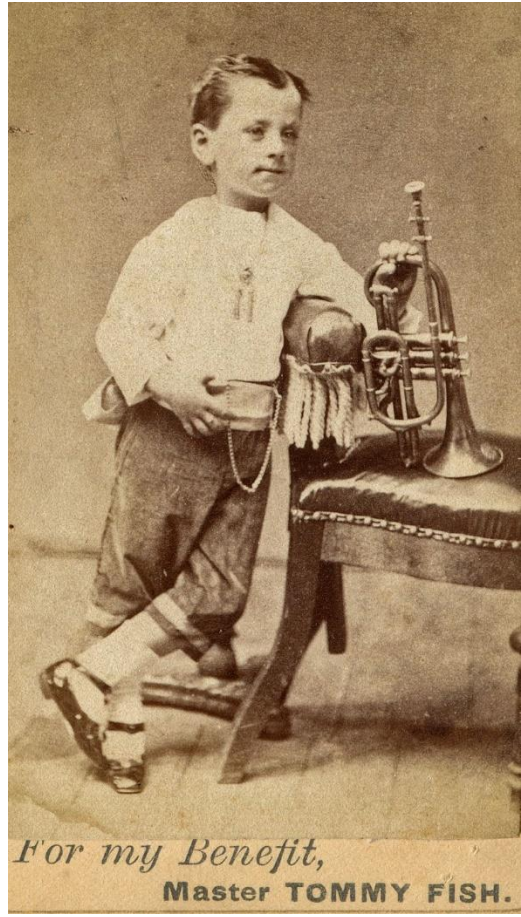
*Burtie*



**TOMMY FISH.**  
For my Benefit.



MASTER TOMMY FISH.



*For my Benefit,*  
**Master TOMMY FISH.**





? - Concord, New Hampshire



? - Concord, New Hampshire









Joan Anderson of Feltham at the  
Crystal Palace Championships - 1930s



The following photos are almost certainly staged...





