John Coffey

John Coffey was the bass trombone of the Boston Symphony from 1941-52 succeeding William Lilleback (Hans Valdemar Durck Lilleback), while Lilleback took John Coffey's position as Bass trombone of the Cleveland Orchestra; a sort of player swap. In 1941, John Coffey joined several other first chair musicians, including Merritt Dittert trombone, Louis Davidson trumpet, Leonard Sharrow bassoon, and Rudolph Puletz horn to go to Argentina to play under Arturo Toscanini at the Teatro Colon.

Studied at the Curtis Institute Class of 1932, same class as Guy Boswell, trombone of the Cleveland Orchestra. Doug Yeo, Bass trombone of the Boston Symphony wrote: "Bartok Concerto for Orchestra was first performed in 1944, with John Coffey being the first bass trombonist to negotiate the gliss from low B to F.

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