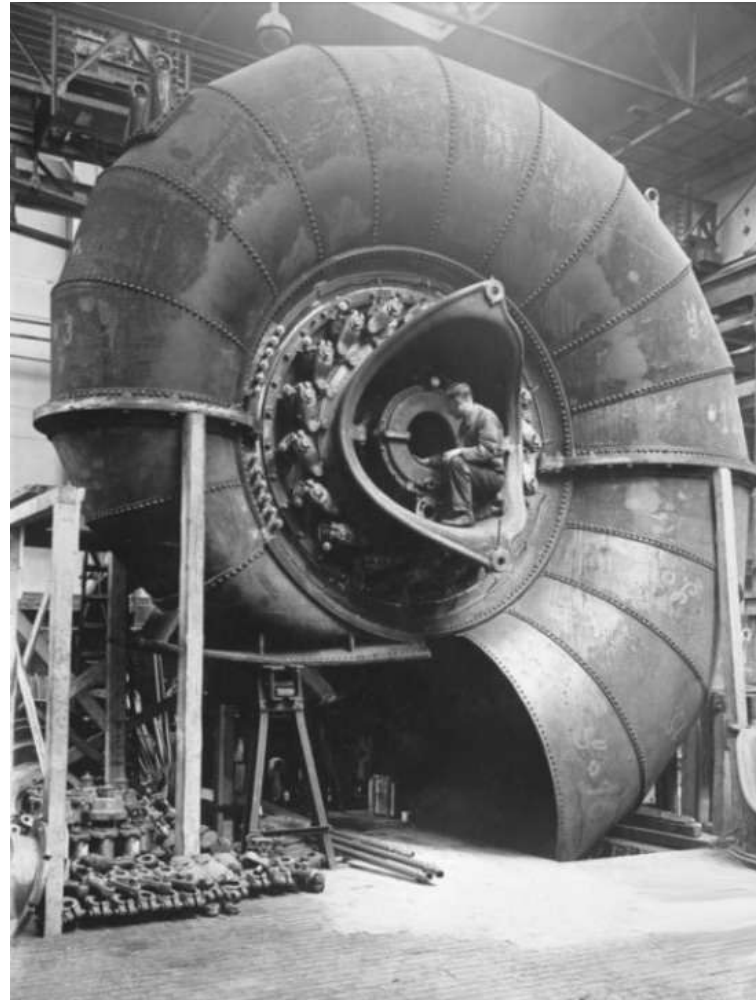


# The Hypermegahorn



The hypermegahorn, the largest member of the horn family and the second biggest instrument ever built, resembled a French horn with an overactive pituitary gland. Its seven-octave range of C-3 to C4 was the widest of all wind instruments. The hypermegahornist used both legs and fingers to play the instrument: legs to pump the treadle that worked the bellows that pressurized the air; and fingers to stick in his ears when the sound expelled from the bell passed 125 decibels. "Which was way too often," complained Buzz Dinklaker, its first and only player. Use of the hypermegahorn in symphonic literature was limited due to its abrupt decommissioning. On October 15, 1960, following a performance of *Etude Bruté for Hypermegahorn and Orchestra* at Carnegie Hall, the instrument was to be moved to the Brooklyn Academy of Music for a subsequent concert. But at Seventh and Houston, the giant horn mysteriously tumbled off of the truck, embedding itself in an empty lot. Before the instrument could be recovered, the realtor on whose lot it landed had rented it to the new U.N. representative from Burkina Faso, who immediately declared it a sovereign two-story studio apartment. It still is. Oh, and the *biggest* instrument ever built, the leviathorn? Naturally, that's quite another story.