

ABRSM Grade 3 Clarinet Pieces

PRELUDE - Charpentier

Here are some tips to help you work through your Grade 1 clarinet song!

Things to keep in mind:

1. Time signature:  This tells us that there are 3 crotchet beats per bar.
2. Key signature:  D Major – you need to include F# and C# in this piece.
3. Tonguing / Slurring

It can be easy to get into bad habits with your articulation. Make sure that you are tonguing all the correct notes, including the beginning of each slur! Here is the first phrase of the piece demonstrating this:



4. Dynamics

There are different dynamics in this piece. You can master these by blowing harder and softer into your clarinet. Make sure you are using your diaphragm.

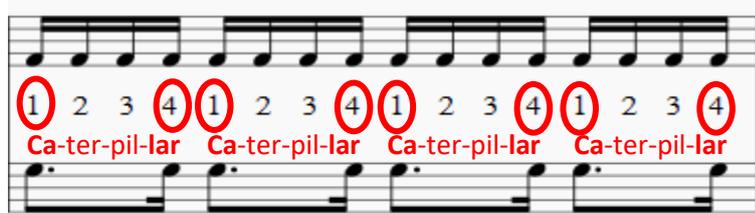
ff Very loud *f* Loud *mf* Moderately loud *mp* Moderately quiet *cresc.* Getting louder

Tip: you could try recording yourself and listening back to see if you can hear the different dynamics you are trying to achieve.

Why not play to a family member and see if they can hear the differences?

5. Difficult rhythm – dotted quavers

A dotted quaver is worth the same as 3 semi quavers, so it may be easier to count the semi quaver beats to get the rhythm at first. You could use the word “Caterpillar” to help. See below:



6. Speed: Maestoso (meaning majestically)

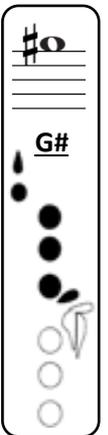
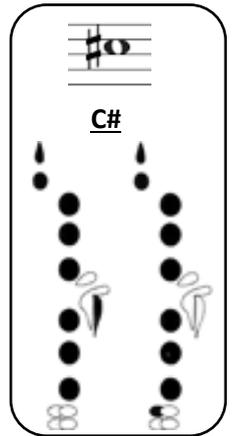
This is a steady song, but we can work up to the speed we need. Tick off when you have completed each speed.

 = 80 <input type="checkbox"/>	 = 90 <input type="checkbox"/>	 = 95 <input type="checkbox"/>	 = 100 <input type="checkbox"/>	 = 110 <input type="checkbox"/>	 = 116 <input type="checkbox"/>
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You can find these different speeds by downloading a “metronome” app on a phone or tablet.

Mastering the song: Tick off each task once you can do it:

- I can play the notes with the correct lengths (you will need to count the beats in your head)



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- I can play the whole song from start to finish
- I can play the music and make it flow
- I can play the song with the correct breathing (breathe after each phrase)
- I can play each slurred section with confidence – don't forget to tongue the first note of every slur
- I can play the song with the correct dynamics*
- I can play along with another clarinet player on a recording – you can download this from your exam pack, or search on YouTube.*
- I can play the song with a piano accompaniment – you can download this from your exam pack, or search on YouTube*
- I have performed this to my family*