

## ABRSM Flute Grade 2

### Piece A1- Can Can

You will find this piece in the ABRSM grade 2 Flute book. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> piece on list A. There is a link and a picture below to show you which book you will need if you are unsure. Remember to purchase the 'Exam pack' edition, as this contains the flute part, Piano part, Scales, Sight reading and Audio tracks for you to practice along with!

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Flute-Exam-2018-2021-ABRSM-Grade/dp/1848497776/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=abrs+grade+2+flute+exam+pack&qid=1587480055&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Flute-Exam-2018-2021-ABRSM-Grade/dp/1848497776/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=abrs+grade+2+flute+exam+pack&qid=1587480055&sr=8-1)



### Where to start!?!?

It can feel like quite a challenge to get going on a new exam piece without any face to face help from your teacher. Hopefully everything you will need will be contained in this worksheet!

### Key signature

The very first thing to do is recognise the key signature. The key is C major, a new scale for grade 2, which takes you up to the high C.



This is the same as all the other high notes you have been working on, make sure you support it from your tummy ( it should feel like you are doing a sit up!) and double the speed the air comes out (push the air out!)

**C Major Scale**

Play the scale of C major –

Play the Arpeggio of C major- **C, E, G, C** **G, E, C**

You should now feel more confident with reaching that top C!

## Time Signature

The time signature of this piece is 2/4, so it will feel like a March.

Here is a link to the piece on YouTube. Why not put it on and clap the pulse along with it, or even have a go marching around the room to the pulse! You should have a loud clap or stomp on beat 1 of the bar, as this is the strongest beat. It is quite a quick beat in this piece, so make sure you keep up!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWIlzS4mqmE&list=PLHyzu0yIXzAr1dwmbVOLDPWeEMWIhbjML>

## Split the piece up!

Don't put pressure on yourself to learn all of the piece in one go! Mark out some suitable sections that you could start with, that won't feel overwhelming.



These are the first 2 lines of the piece, and I would recommend starting with this section first. We **MUST** do the repeat in this piece, so make sure you go back, play it again and jump to the 2<sup>nd</sup> time bar.

Just like any other piece, I would go through the notes, saying them to yourself and doing the fingers on your flute. This will highlight any finger changes that you may find tricky.

Make sure you understand the rhythm too. You could clap through it using tea for the 1 beats and Coffee for the half beats (example below).



Tea



Cof - fee

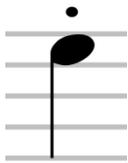
You can then start putting the rhythm and notes together! Make sure you go back and correct any mistakes, and ensure that if there is a certain bar that you find hard, you work on that separately.

Split the rest of the piece up like this, the next section; bar 9-16, and then the next is; bar 20-the end.

## Articulation

There are a few different articulations to pay attention to in this piece, that you may not have come across in grade 1. The first is;

- **Staccato** - A note that is played short and sharply detached.



Staccato is a dot above or below the note. It goes above for a high note and below for a low note. You will notice these a lot in the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 lines of this piece.



- **Accent** - A note that is played with attack at the start, longer than a staccato note.



This is the symbol for an accent, on a low and high note. Like staccato, it appears above the note if it is high, and below if it is low.



There are also Slurred notes, and normal tongued notes. You will have played these in your grade 1 pieces.

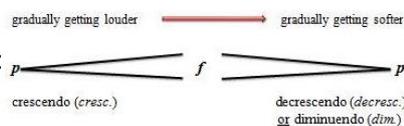
## Dynamics

There is a range of dynamics in this piece, just like you will have seen in your grade 1 pieces. Below is a table to help you work out any dynamics that you may not be familiar with.

**Music Dynamics Chart**

<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	Very, very soft.
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	Very soft.
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	Soft.
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	Moderately soft.
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	Moderately loud.
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	Loud.
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	Very loud.
<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	Very, very loud.

Don't rush to add your dynamic *p* *f* *p* be confident to do so, follow some of the following steps;



- Play through the first section at the starting dynamic, so for this piece that is MP.

- Physically feel what you have to do, to produce this dynamic. It doesn't want to be too quiet, or you will have nowhere to go if you reach a quieter dynamic, but make sure it's not too loud.
- You can then start to add in some of the other dynamics, such as the crescendo in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> time bars.
- Add the dynamics in one by one, so they become really natural and happen without you thinking about them.

## Rests



At bar 17, you will see a 3 bar rest

This means that you will have to rest for a full 3 bars, count them correctly and listen to the piano part. You then come back in at bar 20.

When you are practicing this section, count the rests out loud, ensuring the pulse is exactly the same as when you are playing.

It will go like this;

**1, 2   2, 2,   3, 2**

You can also listen to the YouTube link that was given above, and practice counting along with the video. If you have the exam pack, you can use the free Audio downloads to do this too. One track comes with the flute part, and one without for when you feel much more confident.

## Tempo

Tempo is usually the last thing that you will work on. Getting your piece up to speed for an exam or performance, requires you to feel super confident with all of the other elements of the piece first.

You will probably have a good steady 'practice speed', of around 80 BPM. Make sure that you can play the piece all the way through at this speed, and then you can work through the following tempos. If you have a metronome at home, set it to this speed (remember this piece has 2 beats per bar so needs to be in 2/4!). Listen to the beat and hear how the piece will fit into this faster pulse. You can always have a go at clapping the rhythm along with it. If you do not have a metronome you can download them for free on a smart phone or there are lots of websites you can access which has a free metronome for you to use!



Tick these tempos off, once you can play all the way through at that speed, with no mistakes!