

Abrsm Flute Grade 2

Prokofiev Troika B3

You will find this piece in the ABRSM grade 2 Flute book. It is the 3rd piece on list B. 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



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!)



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 4/4.

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 walking around the room to the pulse! You should have a loud clap or stomp on beats 1 and 3 of the bar, as these are the strongest beats. It is quite a quick beat in this piece, so make sure you keep up!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQGzLOjNKvc>

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.

The 1st section I would concentrate on is bar 1-10, as shown below.



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.

The next section to concentrate on is bars 11-16. You will see that there are a lot of flat (*b*) accidentals. This means that we need to play the flat version of the note, and this continues until that bar is over. So in bar 12 below, because the first A has a flat symbol next to it, that means the next A must be played as a flat too! It is sometimes a good idea to make a light note of this on your music to help you remember, you can then rub it off later.



The final section to work on will be bars 17-the end.

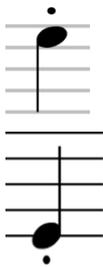
You will see you have bars 17, 18 and 19 as rests, and you come in on the final beat of bar 20. Make sure you count this out correctly. You can use the YouTube video to help you practice counting out the rests, and also use the audio downloads that come free with your exam pack. You will count them out like this;

1, 2, 3, 4 2, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, 4, 2, 3and then you're in!

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.

- **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.

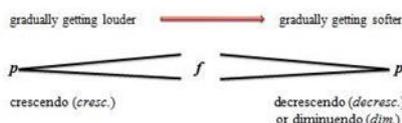
There are also **Slurred notes**, and normal **tongued notes**. You will have played these in you grade 1 pieces.

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.



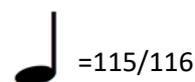
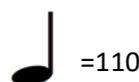
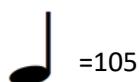
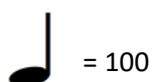
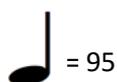
Don't rush to add your dynamics in straight away, but when you feel confident to do so, follow some of the following steps;

- Play through the first section at the starting dynamic, so for this piece that is **MF**.
- 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.
- Add the dynamics in one by one, so they become really natural and happen without you thinking about them.

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 90/95 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 4 beats per bar so needs to be in 4/4!). 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!



Towards the end of the piece you will see some speed changes too. The first one is **Moderato** in bar 24, where you will need to slow down to  =92. There is also a **Rit** in bar 26, which you will slow down even more for, nice and gradually. Have a listen to the YouTube recording or the audio download to understand how much of a **Rit** is required.