

C:3 Snow Walk

This is a good piece to choose if you are confident with slurring wide intervals and can play five slurred crotchet notes in one breath; if you are not comfortable with this, maybe consider choosing another piece.

Before starting work on this piece, try to listen online to a recording of this piece https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_gHFqtLNbk which is also available as part of your exam downloads; use the code in the back of your book to access these.

Start by getting familiar with the notes, working in four bar phrases initially. Look at the articulation, with slurs, tongued and staccato (short) notes. Practise slurring the wide intervals, such as the low G to middle D in bar 1 and higher G to middle D in bar 2. Play a G major arpeggio then miss out the B to help with this. If you haven't already learned this, you can find it on page 12 of your exam pack or online in the Free Resources section of the Masquerade Music website <https://www.masquerade-music.co.uk/freemusic.html> Make sure you maintain a constant beat while mixing the slurs and staccato notes.

Long flowing phrases are a feature of this piece, so make sure you always include some long notes as part of your practice routine to help with this. Take a deep breath, support the air from the bottom of your lungs and see if you can increase your note length by a beat each time you play. You could try timing yourself for an added challenge, or have a long note competition over the phone with a friend!

The extra long slur in bars 9 - 10 may take a bit of additional practice. You could approach this by tonguing initially, then slurring the first two notes, then three; practise many times at each stage and eventually you will be able to work up to slurring four and finally five notes. The long note practice will really help with this; just don't try to nail it immediately as it will take a bit of time and practice.

There is not a wide dynamic variation in this piece, so make sure you can hear the difference between your *mp* and *mf* sections. Once you are confident with the notes, articulation, dynamics and long phrases, aim for a deliberate feel, as if you were walking in deep snow; add a little *rit* (slowing down) in bar 15 leading to a pause on your final note.

You could try playing along with a metronome or metronome app. Then try playing along with the example version; practise both with the track and on your own.