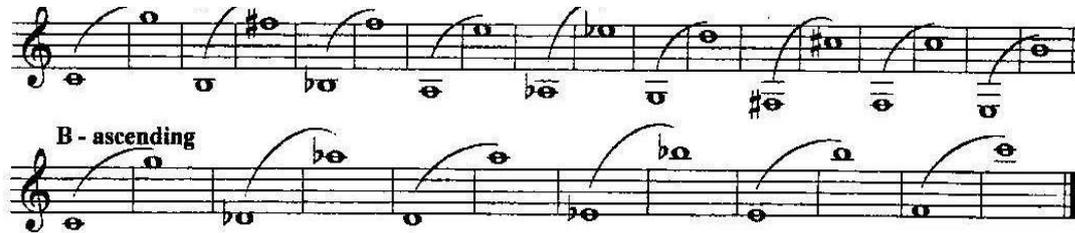


Grade 2 clarinet A3 I love My Love.

Before you start this piece you will need to be confident on the upper register notes of the clarinet.



Try this exercise.

By adding the register key to the lower note in each case it will become the upper note.

Tips for upper register notes:

Make sure your thumb fully covers the hole and just the tip of your thumb presses the register key. Your thumb needs to be flat against the clarinet for this.



you may need a slightly harder reed – perhaps a number 2

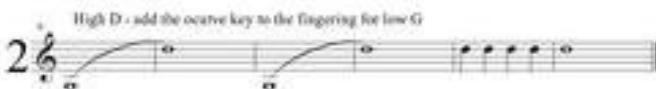
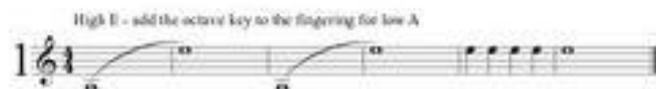
Lift your clarinet up so that it is at a 45 degree angle to your body. Don't be tempted to rest it on your knee and try to squeeze the note out!

You may need a little more mouth piece in your mouth. By moving your lip down the reed you are allowing it more room to vibrate.



Always try to play with an open throat to allow as much air through as possible. Imagine yawning whilst you play.

Try these exercises next.



At the back of your book you will find the code to download this piece and the backing track.

If you are unable to download it try using this link to Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FeG15S98lg>

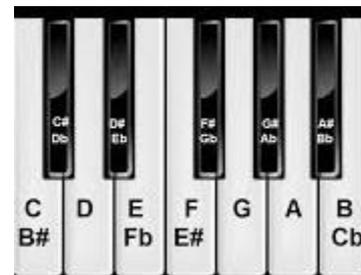
Listen to this piece and read the description at the bottom of the page in your book to set the mood of the music.

Look at the key signature at the beginning of this piece. You will notice that it has one #. Can you remember back to grade 1 when you played a scale with 1 #?

Do you remember which one it was?



But for every major scale there is a “relative minor” that means it has the same key signature BUT starts on a different note and (for melodic minors) has a raised 6th and 7th note.

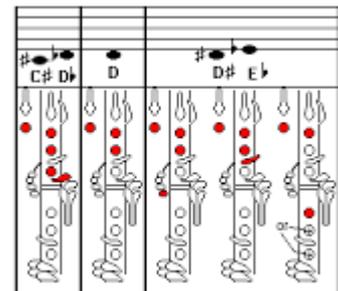


One easy way to find the relative minor is to remember that minors work underground.

find G the picture of a keyboard - now move down (or underground) 3 steps – these are called semitones in music

G to F# is one F# to F is two and F to E makes 3.

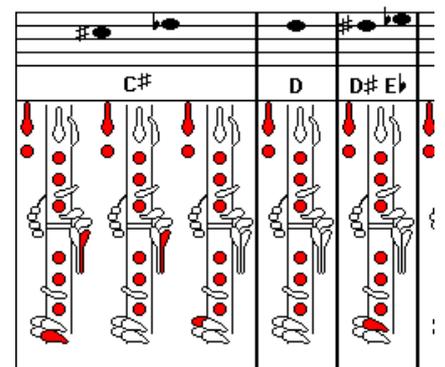
So the relative minor of G major is E minor.



in general major keys sound happy and minor keys sound sad.

Try playing both scales and listen to the difference.

Use the fingering charts opposite to help you with the sharps.



I love My Love is in a minor key. Giving it a mournful feel even though the song has a happy ending.

It is a Cornish folk song and if you watched the TV series Poldark you may have heard it being sung by Demelza.

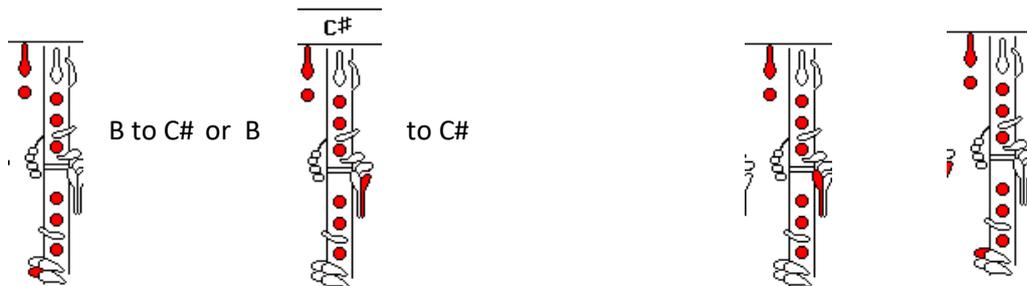
Once you have listened to the piece you will notice that there is an introduction on the piano before you have to play.

You can listen and learn when to start playing or you can count like this

4 1 2 3 4 2 2 3 4 3 2 3 2 4 2 3 begin playing after 3 in the last bar of the introduction.

Keep your notes as smooth and even as possible.

When playing B to C# make sure you use alternate little fingers.



DO NOT try to play both notes with the same little finger.

If you use the same combination of fingerings each time you will soon get used to it.

I would recommend practicing the first 3 notes of bar 10 – B C# D several times as this pattern is used 3 more times in this piece.

Practice just playing the notes then try to slur them.

In bar 11 the pattern works backwards, try playing C# B A several times they try slurring them.

In bar 7 and 17 you will find notes that look like this  these are dotted notes and are worth 1 and a ½ beats they should be played and counted like this .



Listen to the piece again and listen out for the dotted rhythm. Try to play along to bars 7 and 8 and bar 17.

It is important that you practice this piece slowly and evenly. Keep the low note passages at the same speed as the upper register parts.

This piece is marked Andantino espressivo at the start.

Andante means at a walking pace

Andantino can mean slightly slower or faster than Andante.

Espressivo means expressively

So altogether the piece should be played at a moderate walking pace with expression.

There are a lot of technical skills in this piece so it is worth taking your time and working on small sections rather than trying to play it all at once.

When you are confident on each section listen to it again and have a go at playing the complete piece.

Once you are happy with the fingerings and rhythm its time to start work on the dynamics (loud and softs)

Look at this chart and work out which dynamics are used in this piece

Remember – for the Exam it is important that the examiner can hear the difference in dynamics by the way you play.

It is all about contrast.

piano	<i>p</i>	soft
pianissimo	<i>pp</i>	very soft
forte	<i>f</i>	loud
fortissimo	<i>ff</i>	very loud
mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>	medium soft
mezzo forte	<i>mf</i>	medium loud
crescendo	<i>cresc.</i> <	gradually louder
diminuendo	<i>dim.</i> >	gradually softer

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You can also see the word *legato* written under bar 4.

This tells us that the piece is to be played smoothly.

And finally on the last line the word *rit* appears This is short for ritardando which means gradually getting slower.

Remember – for the Exam it is important that the examiner can hear your smooth playing and the slowing down at the end otherwise he or she will not know that you understand these terms.

As we said at the start this piece is a Cornish folk song you can listen to the song here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubk7f0d80P8>

Folk songs have been passed from generation to generation often without any written music.

See if you can learn all or part of this piece to play from memory.

Why not follow this link to several folk songs you can download or play for free

https://www.8notes.com/clarinet/traditional/sheet_music/

I am sure you will know several of them!

You could also try to learn some traditional tunes by ear.

Start with something you know really well like Happy Birthday and see if you can work out the notes needed.

Hint - Start on D and use F#s in your key signature!