

Grade 2 Clarinet Oom Pah Pah from Oliver B1 by Lionel Bart.

This piece of music was written as a song for the musical Oliver. Have you ever seen it?

Maybe on the television (it has been on recently as part of the weekend lock down film series) or maybe you have been lucky enough to see it at the theatre somewhere.

If you haven't seen it, keep an eye out for it on television – it's a great film and the music is fantastic!

This song is a lively, happy song with a party atmosphere.

Read the description at the bottom of your music and then listen to the piece.

You can either download it for free using the code and instructions at the back of your book or

Listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BX7gFw6U8go>

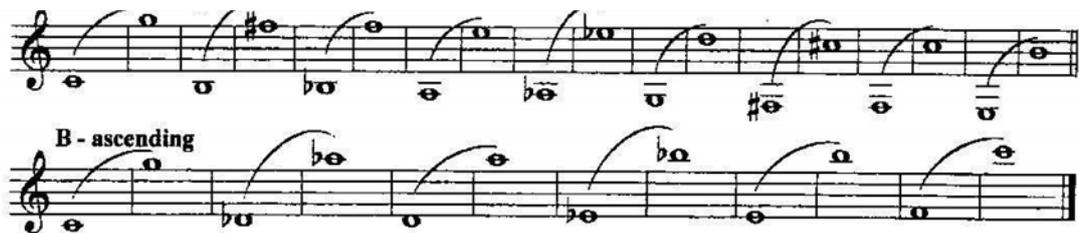
There is also a great film version that shows you exactly how Nancy gets the crowd singing and joining in this song to create a distraction and help Oliver escape.

This film is rated PG so ask permission from an adult before you watch it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIKccuS_ayk.

You will need to be comfortable with upper register notes to play this piece so lets do some work on those first.

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 it 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!

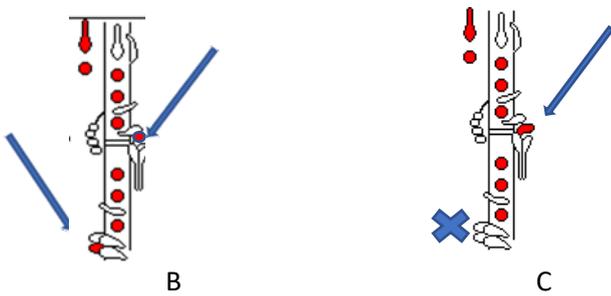
You may need a little more mouth piece in your mouth.

By moving your lip down the reed you are allowing it more room to vibrate.

Try to relax and keep the air pressure steady.



When you play B to C you can put both little fingers on for B – remember B for Both and then simply remove one for C



Try playing the scale tongued first then slurred. Remember only to breath after the top note and the last note.

The first 2 bars of Oom pah pah of the clarinet part are slurred and use the notes G and F# (middle finger) making it a really easy slur to play.

if you bounce off the last G (marked staccato) you will find it easier to jump to the E and C that follow. These 3 notes are part of the C major arpeggio. You can find this at the back of your book.

The slurred pattern followed by 3 staccato notes is repeated through out the piece so it is worth spending some time listening to it and practicing it now.

Remember Staccato notes should be short and detached or bouncy like a ball bouncing on the ground.



When playing A to G# in bar 7 make sure you use the side of your index finger to play the G#

You need a rolling motion to keep the slur smooth.

Through out this section you can have the fingers of your **right hand actually ON the the keys for B**

It wont change the sound of the A or G#.

Listen to the first two lines of the music again.

You will notice that there are 4 bars at the start for the piano introduction. Listen carefully and try to remember how it sounds so that you know when to start playing.

Alternatively count 1 2 3 – 2 2 3 – 3 2 3 – 4 2 3 then start.

Bars 13 to 20 are almost a repeat of the first two line listen carefully and see if you can hear where the music changes.

The last two notes of this section look like this  this sign is an accent and means you should “attack the note” – imagine hitting a chime bar – it needs to have the same effect.

They are also strong notes to lead us into the chorus.

Now try playing the whole of the first section.

Remember the song or video mentioned at the start of this sheet?

The next the part where Nancy gets everyone singing.

This section is written using a combination of slurs and tongued notes. As a general rule in this style of music When 2 notes of equal value are slurred together make the second note slightly shorter.

Then you can bounce on to the 3rd note. Notice that this note is not marked staccato and therefore you don't need to make it any shorter.

Try this exercise on easy notes before you try bars 21 onwards cutting the second slurred note slightly shorter each time.



Bar 21 C – E is an easy slur but bar 22 G to E is a lot harder.

When playing G to E keep your **right hand fingers** covering the holes for E while you play G it won't affect the sound of the G at all and will help you move smoothly up to the E.

You can use the same technique for slurring G to D in bar 26.

Bar 27 has the highest note in the piece – top A you will need to take a good breath at the start of the bar and keep the air pressure strong to let the A sound clear.

For grade 2 you have to play Am arpeggio 1/12 – you will find this in the back of your book, try this first then have a go at playing Am 2 octaves written below to help you with bar 27 and the high A



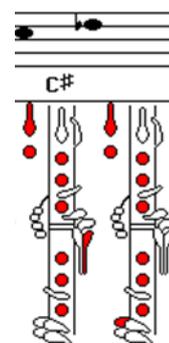
Try it tongued at first but then they to slur in groups of 4 and 3 notes

Then try to slur right to the top A and then back down.

The last line of the piece includes C# - you can use either of the fingerings here.

And A# - although you probably haven't seen A# in a piece before you have definitely played it before but using its other name Bb!

When we change the name but not the pitch of a note we call it enharmonically changed! Big words !! but it just means the same fingering with a different name for us here. Therefore A# is the same fingering as Bb.



Practice this piece in small sections remembering to add all the slurs and tongued notes.

This piece is a waltz and therefore a dance.

You may have seen people dancing a waltz on Strictly come Dancing. It must flow smoothly.

If you give a little push on the first beat of each bar it helps the piece to swing along.

The words to the chorus also help us to emphasise the first beat of each bar.

Bars 21 – 28 lyrics

Oom-pah-pah! Oom-pah-pah!

That's how it goes,

Oom-pah-pah! Oom-pah-pah!

Ev'ryone knows.

Listen to the piece again and then when you are confident you have the rhythm and style correct try playing the whole piece.

Don't forget you dynamics –

MF = mezzo forte = moderately loud

F = forte = loud

FF = fortissimo = very loud

If you enjoy playing this piece you may like to try some other pieces from musicals or films for clarinet.

