

## ABRSM Grade 1 Clarinet Pieces

### Hush-a-bye – Roma Cafolla

Here are some tips to help you work through your Grade 1 clarinet song!

#### Things to keep in mind:

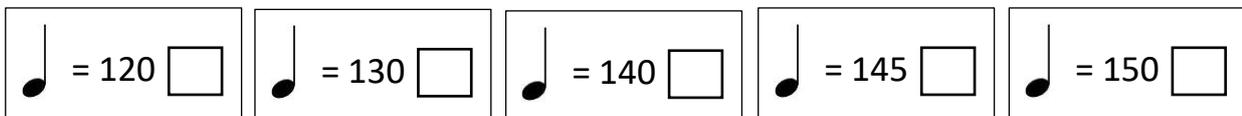
1. Time signature:  This tells us that there are 3 crotchet beats per bar.

2. There are different note lengths in this piece. Make sure you count each note correctly:



3. Speed: Largo (meaning slow)

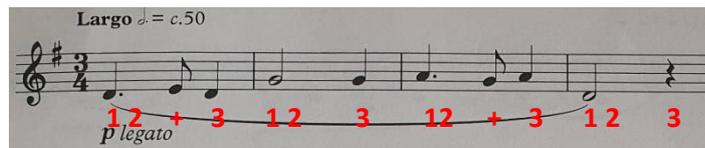
This is a steady song, but don't worry if it is a little fast to start with. Try building up to the correct speed. I have changed the beats to crotchets to make it easier for you to count:



You can find these different speeds by downloading a "metronome" app on a phone or tablet.

4. Dotted rhythms - These are tricky but counting it out can help.

#### BAR 1-4



5. Dynamics

There are different dynamics in this piece. You can master these by blowing harder and softer into your clarinet.

*mf* = Moderately Loud       = Gradually Getting Louder  
 or *dim.* = Gradually Getting Quieter      *p* = Quiet

6. Breathing

This is tricky to master. You should breathe before each new mini section, which are shown by long slur marks. They are mainly 4 bars long. Make sure you take in a big breath!

7. Extra things to note

#### **rall.**

This stands for rallentando. It means that the music gradually slows down at the end.

Slurs – there are some long slurs in this piece, make sure that you have taken a big breath to master them. Always tongue the first note of a slur.

*Legato* – This is at the beginning of your music. It tells you to play the piece smoothly. Remember – it needs to sound like a lullaby.

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Mastering the song: *Tick off each task once you can do it:*

- I can play all the notes confidently
- I can play the notes with the correct lengths (you will need to count the beats in your head)
- I can play the whole song from start to finish
- I can play the music and make it flow
- I can play the song with the correct breathing (breathe after each slur)
- I can play each slurred section with confidence – don't forget to tongue the first note of every slur
- I can play the song with the correct dynamics
- I can play the song with a piano accompaniment – you can download this from your exam pack, or search on YouTube
- I have performed this to my family