

ABRSM Grade 1 Clarinet Pieces

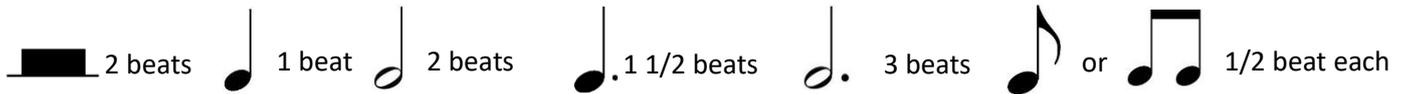
Sundown – James Rae

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

Things to keep in mind:

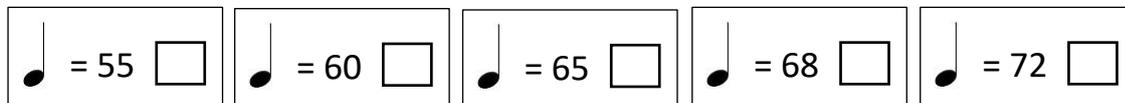
1. Time signature:  This tells us that there are 4 crotchet beats per bar.

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



3. Speed: Slow Blues Tempo

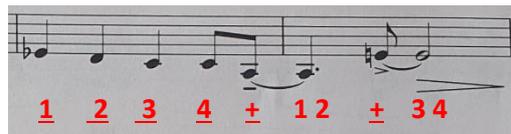
This is a steady song, but don't worry if it is a little fast to start with. Try building up to the correct speed. I have changed the beats to crotchets to make it easier for you to count:



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 7 + 8 – The beats you need to play are underlined.



5. Dynamics

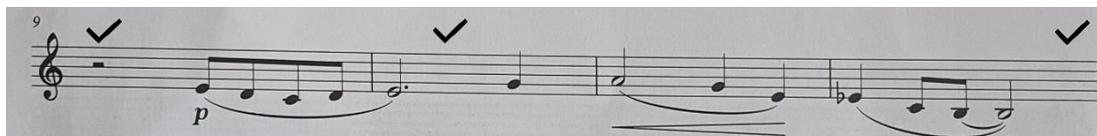
There are different dynamics in this piece. You can master these by blowing harder and softer into your clarinet.

mf = Moderately Loud *p* = Quiet *mp* = Moderately Quiet

 = Gradually Getting Quieter  = Gradually Getting Louder

6. Breathing

This is tricky to master. In this piece, you can breathe after every two bars. Line 3 is the exception:



7. Playing in a swung style (Jazz – style)

This may take a little work to get right.

Playing in a swung style will affect how you play the quavers in this piece. In a pair of quavers, the first one is played longer than the other. Here is an example. (L = long, S = short)



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8. Extra things to note

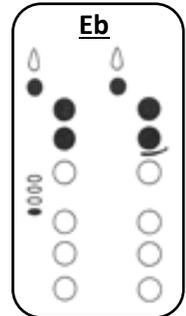
Slurs – there are some long slurs in this piece, make sure that you have taken a big breath to master them. Always tongue the first note of a slur.

Espress. – Meaning expressively. This is asking you to play in an expressive way.

This is an Eb and is a tricky note to play at first.



There are 2 different ways to play this on your clarinet. Choose the one that is most comfortable for you.



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 – playing in a swung style
- I can play the song with the correct breathing (breathe every two bars)
- 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