

## ABRSM Grade 4 Clarinet Pieces

### AVEC LA GARDE MONTANTE – Georges Bizet

Here are some tips to help you work through your Grade 4 clarinet song!

Things to keep in      mind:

- 1. Time**  **signature:** This tells us that there are 2 crotchet beats per bar.
- 2. Key signature:**  G Major – There is an F# throughout this piece. Watch out for extra accidentals.
- 3. Tonguing / Slurring**

It can be easy to get into bad habits with your articulation. Make sure that you are tonguing all the correct notes, including the beginning of each slur! There are some examples below:



#### **4. Fingers:**

As you know, there are multiple ways to play some of the notes on your clarinet. Sometimes, you need to use a particular fingering to make it easier to change between certain notes. It is easier to use the same fingering throughout the piece.

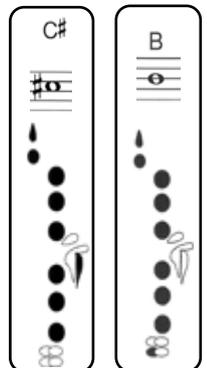
In this piece, changing between B, C# and D# is an example of this:



Tip: E# is the same as F, A# is the same as Bb.

#### **5. Key Change:**

Watch out for the key change at the end of the piece. Tip – it may look daunting, but it is the same fingering as most of the piece (with G# as extra).



#### **6. Breathing:**

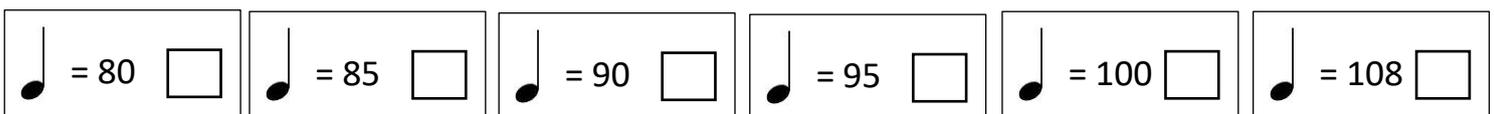
Remember to only breathe at the end of phrases (every 4 bars) or at a rest.

#### **7. Dynamics:**

Try recording yourself and listening back to see if you can hear the different dynamics you are trying to achieve. Why not play to a family member and see if they can hear the differences?

#### **8. Speed:** Allegretto (fairly quick)

This is a steady song, but we can work up to the speed we need. To make it slightly easier, I have changed the beats to crotchets. Tick off when you have completed each speed.



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

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

- 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 phrase or at the rests)
- 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 along with another clarinet player on a recording – you can download this from your exam pack, or search on YouTube.
- 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