

ABRSM Grade 3 Clarinet Pieces

THEME FROM YOUNG PRINCE AND YOUNG PRINCESS – Rimsky-Korsakov

Here are some tips to help you work through your Grade 3 clarinet song!

Things to keep in mind:

1. Time signature:  This tells us that there are 6 quaver beats per bar.
2. Key signature: C Major – there are no sharps or flats in this piece.
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! Here is the first phrase of the piece demonstrating this:



5. Difficult rhythm – dotted rhythms

Due to the time signature, we need to count quaver beats in this piece. This means that all of the values are doubled in this time signature:

Quaver = 1, Semi-quaver = ½, Dotted Quaver = 1 ½, Crotchet = 2

This can be difficult to play in time at first. Counting out the beats can help. See below for an example – the beats you need to play are underlined.



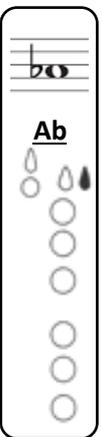
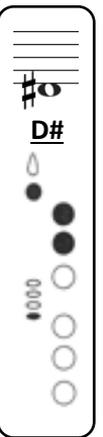
Meaning "a little slower"

4. Dynamics

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

p Quiet ***mf*** Moderately loud ***mp*** Moderately quiet ***cresc.*** Getting louder  = Getting Quieter

Tip: you could try recording yourself and listening back to see if you can hear the different dynamics you are trying to achieve.



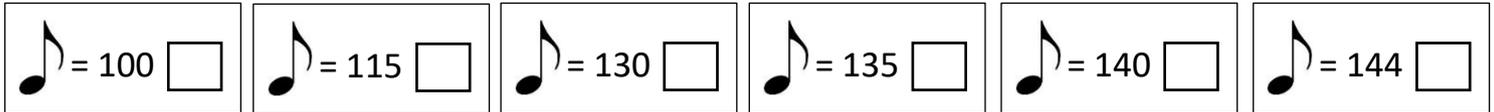
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Why not play to a family member and see if they can hear the differences

6. Speed: Andantino quasi allegretto (meaning “Andantino nearly allegretto”, there in between speeds)

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



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

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 – you may want to use a metronome to keep in time.
- I can play the song with the correct breathing (breathe after each phrase)
- 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