

ABRSM Clarinet Grade 4 B3 Cooling Breeze.

Skills and techniques required for this piece:-

1. Time signature



9 means there are 9 notes in a bar

8 means those notes are quavers

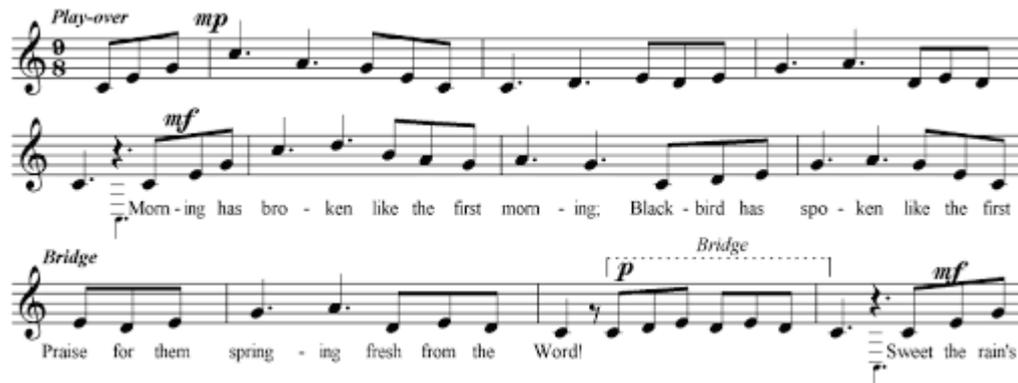
9/8 time is known as compound triple. There are three beats (three dotted crotchets) and can be counted like this.



hint:- place a slight emphasis on the main beats ie, the bold numbers to help give the 3 beat feel.



Try this extract from a well known song in 9 8 as a warm up exercise – play it slowly and freely to give it a smooth flowing feel.



See if you can work out the rest of the song yourself.

2. Ornaments / grace notes - **acciaccatura** - a grace note performed as quickly as possible before an essential note of a melody.



Written

Found in bars 2, 20 and 27



Sounding



Hint:- Try practicing those bars on their own without the grace note first to get the timing right. Then add in the grace note. It might help you to think of it as a note "crushed" into the music.

- Trill** – The trill (or shake, as it was known from the 16th until the 19th century) is a musical ornament consisting of a rapid alternation between two adjacent notes, usually a semitone or tone apart.

As a general rule today you should begin the trill on the main note and it should last for as long as the original note.



Sounds like . . .



But that wasn't always the case,

if a piece was written before 1800 you'd usually start a trill on the note above like so:

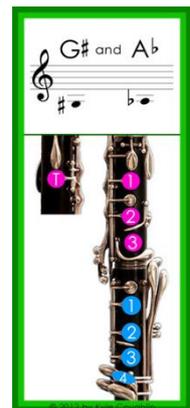


A trill sign with an accidental above or below should be played like this.



Hint: - In bar 16 you will find a trill sign with a flat above it.

In this case you should start on a G and "trill" up to Ab for 3 beat. This is quite a work out for your little finger, practice the bar separately .



Try this famous excerpt using trills.

4. Italian terms and signs

p	piano – soft
pp	pianissimo – very soft
mp	Mezzo Piano – medium soft
mf	Mezzo Forte – medium loud
f	Forte – loud
ff	fortissimo – very loud
cresc	crescendo – getting louder
dim	diminuendo – getting softer

rall rallentando – gradually getting slower

getting louder



getting softer



pause – literally pause on the note – hold it a little longer. (last note)

hint:- you can only be marked on what the examiner can hear in your playing! Make sure your dynamic contrasts are audible and obvious without spoiling the flow of the music.

5. Slurs and breathing

There are some long slurred phrases in this piece like the end of bar 4 to the end of bar

Flowing [$\text{♩} = c.69$]

6

Hint:- Phrases like this must all be played in one breath – no cheating!!

Use the quaver rest to fill your lungs. Use your diaphragm to support the sound and keep it even throughout the slur. There is a crescendo towards the end of this phrase so you have to really make sure you have enough breath.

6. **Take time to read the description** at the bottom of page 8 in your exam book.

It paints a lovely picture of a summers day.

Listen to the track from your free download in the back of your book or listen to it by following this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yymm73f7Src>

Try to imagine that cooling breeze on a hot summers day as you listen.

Although there are a lot of technical things to learn for this piece once you have mastered them the actual notes are not difficult to play.

This piece is all about the picture you paint with the music. It must flow freely and sound effortless.

Hint:- Long note practice will help with the long phrases.

Try to practice when you feel relaxed and have no distractions around you.- Turn off your phone!

Stand or sit comfortably and try to place your music in a good position so you don't have to strain to see it.

Practice the technical skills separately so that when you play the piece they come easily to you.

Other information.

Christopher Norton was born in New Zealand in 1953. He began composing at the age of 14, and, by the age of 16, had an orchestral work performed and broadcast. Having completed an honours degree in music from Otago University, Dunedin, in 1974, he met with some success as a pianist in New Zealand, playing with the New Zealand Symphony orchestra and broadcasting on the Concert Programme. At the same time, he was teaching music in local high schools, beginning to freelance as a composer and arranger, and had also started to play keyboards in a rock band, having becoming interested in jazz and pop.

Other music you might like by Christopher Norton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7tfZ77NdyI> Puppet theatre grade 5 clarinet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpDMe_YuuYU Hot potato Grade 5 jazz clarinet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7nV-idh0fA> Clarinet concerto 3rd movt.

You might also like his Micro Jazz book to try playing some pieces yourself.