

Abrsm Saxophone Grade 3

Tower Hill- A2

You will find this piece in the ABRSM grade 3 Saxophone book. It is the 2nd piece on list A. There is a link and a picture below to show you which book you will need if you are unsure. Remember to purchase the 'Exam pack' edition, as this contains the Saxophone part, Piano part, Scales, Sight reading and Audio tracks for you to practice along with!

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Saxophone-Exam-2018-2021-ABRSM-Grade/dp/1786010291/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Abrsm+saxophone+grade+3&qid=1588261929&sr=8-1



Where to start!?!?

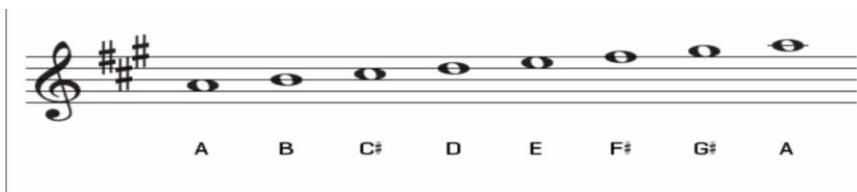
It can feel like quite a challenge to get going on a new exam piece without any face to face help from your teacher. Hopefully everything you will need will be contained in this worksheet!

Key signature

The very first thing to do is recognise the key signature. The key is A major, which includes the following sharps; F, C and G. It looks like this;



You can help yourself get familiar with the key signature by practicing the A major scale which is pictured below to help you.



Time Signature

This piece is in 'Cut Common Time'. The symbol for this is;



We count cut common time not in crotchets, but in minims. This means there will be 2 minim beats in each bar.

When you are learning this piece, you can start counting in crotchets to ensure that you have a good precise rhythm, but make sure you then start thinking about the rhythm in minims, to bring the feeling of the minim through.

This is how we would count the first few bars in Crotchets;

Lively ♩ = c.69

f

1 2 3,4 1 2 3,4

In minims we count it like this;

Lively ♩ = c.69

f

1 2 1 2

Here is a link to the piece on YouTube. Why not put it on and clap the pulse along with it, or even have a go walking around the room to the pulse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14LiDSIHymc>

Split the piece up!

Don't put pressure on yourself to learn all of the piece in one go! Mark out some suitable sections that you could start with, that won't feel overwhelming.

When you look at this piece, you will see that there are a lot of repeated rhythms, this is a really good place to start and will help you split the piece up into sensible sections that make musical sense. Below is an example of one of the repetitive sections that you could focus on;

mp *mf*

Just like any other piece, I would go through the notes, saying them to yourself and doing the fingers on your saxophone (you can treat it a little bit like sight reading.) This will highlight any finger changes or sections that you may find tricky.

Make sure you understand the rhythm too. You can clap or tap through it, and then put the notes with it and give it a go!

Articulation

There are a few different articulations to pay attention to in this piece, that you may or may not have come across in grades 1 and 2. The first is;

- **Staccato** - A note that is played short and sharply detached



This first passage shows lots of staccato, and this is a common feature throughout this piece.

- **Slurs**- Continuous playing with no break or detaching of the notes.



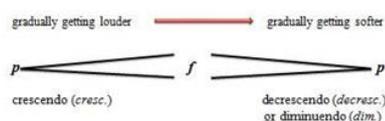
You will see there are many slurs in this passage, but also there are some staccato passages, so make sure that you still recognise and play these.

Dynamics

There is a range of dynamics in this piece, just like you will have seen in your grade 1 and 2 pieces. Below is a table to help you work out any dynamics that you may not be familiar with.

Music Dynamics Chart

<i>ppp</i>	<i>pianississimo</i>	Very, very soft.
<i>pp</i>	<i>pianissimo</i>	Very soft.
<i>p</i>	<i>piano</i>	Soft.
<i>mp</i>	<i>mezzo piano</i>	Moderately soft.
<i>mf</i>	<i>mezzo forte</i>	Moderately loud.
<i>f</i>	<i>forte</i>	Loud.
<i>ff</i>	<i>fortissimo</i>	Very loud.
<i>fff</i>	<i>fortississimo</i>	Very, very loud.



Tempo

Tempo is usually the last thing that you will work on. Getting your piece up to speed for an exam or performance, requires you to feel super confident with all of the other elements of the piece first.

You will probably have a good steady 'practice speed'. Make sure that you can play the piece all the way through at this speed, and then you can work through some faster tempos, making sure that the whole piece is controlled at that speed before increasing it any more. If you have a metronome at home, set it to the speed you are practicing at, (remember this piece has 2 beats per bar!). Listen to the beat and hear how the piece will fit into this faster pulse. You can always have a go at clapping the rhythm along with it. The tempo marking on this piece is 69, so work up to it nice and slowly E.g. 50, 55, 60 etc.

If you do not have a metronome you can download them for free on a smart phone or there are lots of websites you can access which has a free metronome for you to use!