

ABRSM Grade 4 Clarinet Pieces

DOG BONE MAYHEM – Howard Goodall

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 3 crotchet beats per bar.
- 2. Key signature:**  F Major – There are no sharps and flats. Watch out for extra accidentals, including G#.

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:



At this point in the music, you need to stamp your foot!

4. Fingers:

There are some fast and fiddly bits in this piece, so using the correct fingers for particular notes will help you conquer this! I would recommend playing C with your left hand throughout this piece:



5. Breathing:

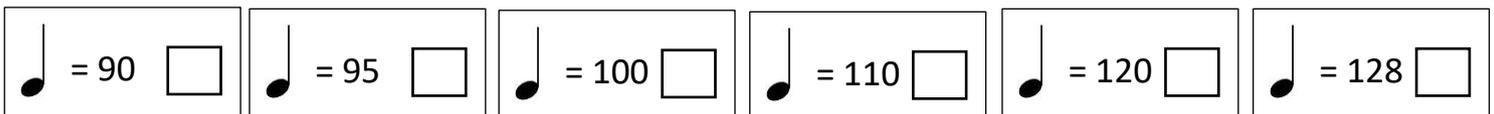
Remember to only breathe at the end of phrases (every 4 bars) or at a rest.

6. 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?

7. Speed: Frantically

This is a fast 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 have mastered the "legato tonguing" technique
- I can play the song with the correct dynamics
- I can play the piece with all the correct speed changes
- I can play along with another clarinet player on a recording – you can download this from your exam pack, or search on YouTube.
- I have performed this to my family