

ABRSM Grade 3 Clarinet Pieces

SMARTY ARTIE – Richard Michael

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 4 crotchet beats per bar.
2. **Key signature:**  G Major – There is an F# throughout this piece
3. **Playing in a swung style (Jazz – style)** This may take a little work to get right.

Playing in a swung style will affect how you play the quavers in this piece. In a pair of quavers, the first one is played longer than the other. Here is the first phrase as an example. (L = long, S = short)



4. 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!



Any note with a dot above/below it means it is staccato.

The note needs to be played short and crisp.



5. 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.

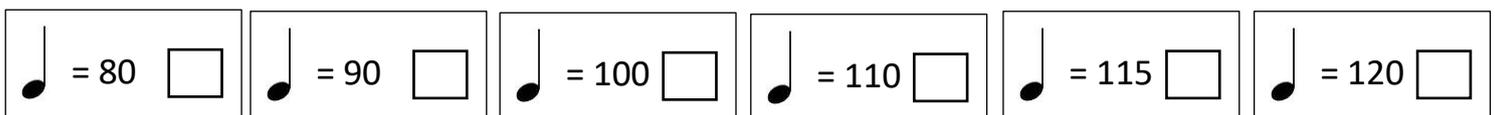
p Quiet *f* Loud *mf* Moderately loud *ff* Very loud \blacktriangleleft Getting louder

Tip: you could 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?

6. Speed – Swing groove

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 “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 – with a swung rhythm
- 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