

ABRSM Grade 4 Clarinet Pieces

ANDANTINO IN A MINOR – F. L. Schubert

Here are some tips to help you work through your Grade 4 clarinet song!

Things to keep in mind:

1. Time
bar.

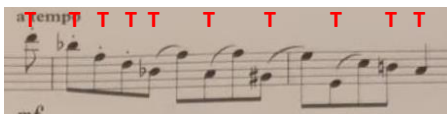


signature: (Common time) This tells us that there are 4 crotchet beats per

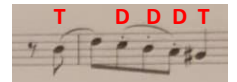
2. Key signature: A Minor – There are no sharps and flats. Watch out for extra accidentals, including G#.

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:



When you have a staccato in a slur, this means you need to play the notes **“legato tongued”**. To achieve this, lightly tongue the notes using “daa”.



4. Fingers:

Changing between top D and Bb can be fiddly at the speed of this piece, but there is an alternative way of playing Bb to help with this. Give it a try and see if you find it easier!

5. Breathing:

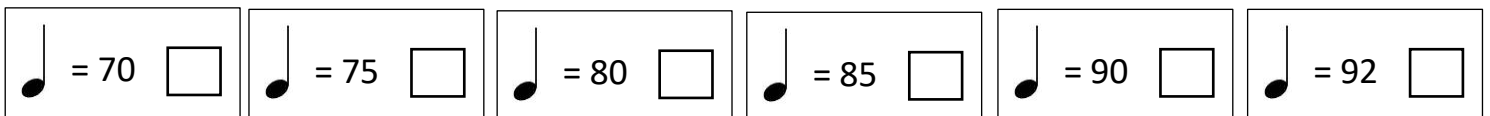
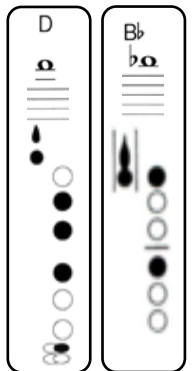
Remember to only breathe at the end of phrases (every 4 bars) or at a rest.

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: Andantino (fairly slow)

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 free “metronome” app on a phone or tablet.

rall. or *rit.*

stands for

“Rallentando” or “Ritardando” meaning “gradually slow down”

Meaning

A tempo “back to the original tempo/speed”

The changes in speed is one of the most difficult challenges in this piece, so take extra time to master this.



This is a “fermata”, or a long pause – you will need to hold the note for longer than its value. E.g. a crotchet would be held on for longer than one beat.

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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