

ABRSM Grade 3 Clarinet Pieces

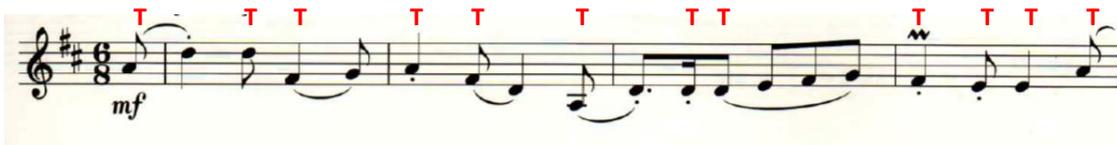
MORRIS TUNE – Trad. English

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 6 quaver beats per bar.
2. Key signature: D Major – you need to include F# and C# in this piece.
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!



 Staccato – to achieve this, make sure the note is “short and crisp”. You can do this by stopping the sound with your tongue.

4. Mastering the rhythms

Because of the time signature, we need to count this piece in quavers. This means that:

Quaver = 1, Semi-quaver = ½, Dotted Quaver = 1 ½, Crotchet = 2, Dotted Crotchet = 3

Counting out the more difficult rhythms should help you to master them.

Remember – practise makes perfect!

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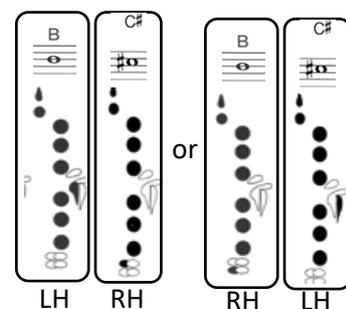
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5. Extra things to note

There are two different ways to play B and C#. I would advise you to decide which one is more comfortable for you to play:



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This symbol represents a Mordent.

It is a little like a small trill. You will need to start on G and change to F#.

There is a mini example above bar 4.

6. 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.

f Loud *mf* Moderately loud *mp* Moderately quiet \longleftarrow Getting louder

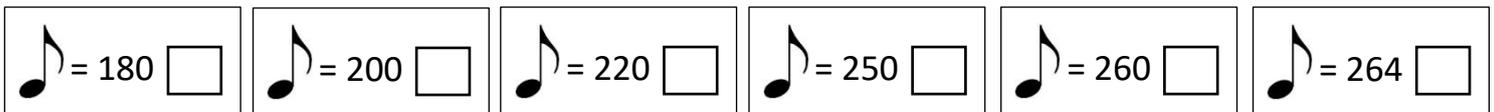
Tip: you could try recording yourself and listening back to see if you can hear the different dynamics you are trying to achieve.

Why not play to a family member and see if they can hear the differences?

7. Speed – Vivace (meaning fast)

This is a fast song, but we can work up to the speed we need. Tick off when you have completed each speed. If you need to start off slower, that is OK!

I have changed them to quavers so they are easier to count.



You can find these different speeds by downloading a "metronome" app on a phone or tablet.

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/every 4 bars)
- 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