

B:2 Boogalie-Woogalie

This is a good piece to choose if you are confident with playing in a jazzy style with swing quavers and triplets; if you are not comfortable with this, maybe consider choosing another piece.

Before starting work on this piece, try to listen online to a recording of this piece <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w9lBY3bpcM> which is also available as part of your exam downloads; use the code in the back of your book to access these.

Start by getting in the groove by clapping some swing quavers and then playing them on one note. Then begin to get familiar with the notes, working initially in four bar phrases. Be careful of the accidentals, for example the Eb in bar 8 and the D# in bar 9 are the same note! Similarly the A# in bar 33 is exactly the same as the Bb in that same bar; pencil in any reminders that might be useful. Look for where phrases repeat, for example the first phrase you play returns many times during the piece.

The triplet quavers in bars 32 – 33 may need some additional practice so try playing them slowly first, then gradually building the speed as you get familiar with the finger movements. It may also help to practise little fragments, such as the D# E G triplets in bar 9, and the A# B D repeating triplet pattern in bar 25; practise these one their own, over and over again, until you get the pattern under your fingers, and then join them on to the following bar.

Then focus on the articulation, practising the mix of tongued and slurred quavers, making sure you play the slurs exactly as written. See how the groups of triplets have the first two slurred and the third one tongued, so practise until that comes naturally. Look at the music and spot any accented notes and tenuto. The accented notes, for example in bar 10, are for emphasis at the end of phrases; the tenuto / staccato quaver combination, as in bar 19, are to be true to the style of music.

Once you are familiar with the notes and articulation, focus on dynamics. The piece is mainly strong and loud, with dynamics of mezzo forte and forte, so aim to show the difference between the mezzo forte tune at the start and the forte 'Go Boogie' tune from bar 19. Bars 43 – 44 is the only place in the piece with a contrasting piano dynamic, so play this suddenly quietly to surprise the listener, before finishing with a strong final two bars.

Boogalie-Woogalie is one of a series of short, fun pieces in popular music styles by the British percussionist and composer Keith Bartlett. It was written for flute and piano, and you are playing the original piece. The title is a jokey reference to Boogie-Woogie, a style of jazz piano playing, so you could listen to some pieces in that style to get in the mood, such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FclFVgdxTw> Think of the words Boogie Woogie for the jazz quavers, and Boogalie Woogalie for the triplets!

The piece is marked 'Seriously Cool!', and should be played at more of a steady tempo than anything too fast. Aim to play the phrases with a cool and casual attitude, while getting them correct of course! Try to make it appear easy and look like you're enjoying it. You could try playing along with a metronome or metronome app, aiming for a speed of about crotchet = 120, (four beats per bar). Then try playing along with the example track from your downloads, and finally with the piano backing; practise.