

OBOE C PIECE

C7 PIECE- GNOME BY GRAHAM SALTER- *35 Melodic Studies for Oboe* (Emerson).

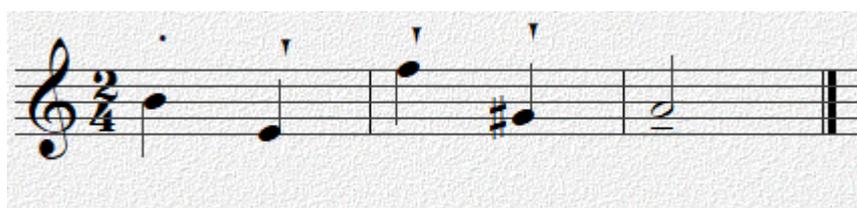


A gnome is a small mythical creature who guards Earth's treasures underground. In this study, the composer has written that it's to be played short and dangerous! This is clearly a gnome who is not meant to be messed with.

This study is all about articulation and scales. Think of the gnome creeping up on you on tiptoe and then trying to scare you. The piece is in A minor, but try this warm up exercise in the key of E minor using the opening bars of the piece. It's one of your grade 3 scales. Notice how much of the piece is **staccato**.



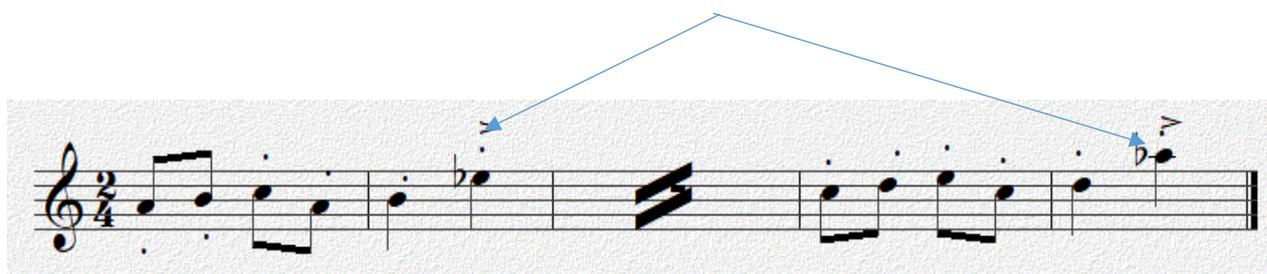
In the last couple of bars the articulation changes from **staccato** markings to a wedge symbol, which is called **staccatissimo**. This means that you play the notes as short as you possibly can. The last note however has a line over the note called **tenuto**, which means that it should be given its full value.



Attention to detail will help create the sense of the menacing character of the gnome.

The nasty character of the gnome can also be seen in the shape of the music. Each four bar phrase is similar in shape, but gets higher and louder. Notice how the opening *piano* (quiet) has become *mezzo forte* (medium loud) by the second line.

By the third line, the music is marked *forte* (loud) and the gnome is angry. Notice the strange notes that come into the tune-



A couple of fingerings in case you have forgotten...



E flat is also D sharp

Little finger on the bottom key.

A flat is also G sharp.



These unexpected notes with accents sound like the gnome jumping out of the bushes to scare you.

The final line marked *fortissimo* (very loud), suggests that the gnome is extremely angry. Do have fun playing loudly with those high notes, but make sure that you don't force them too much so that they are out of tune. The top A, B and C are always difficult to pitch.

The gnome calms down by the end of the piece, and the *dim or diminuendo* which means it's getting quieter and *rall. al fine or rallentando* means that the music gradually gets slower to the end of the piece.

The speed suggested at the top of the piece is extremely brisk. Crotchet = 136 is fast. The Italian words; *Allegretto giocoso* also mean fast and playful. If you can play it that speed, then well done, but make sure speed doesn't mean that you lose the detail. You want to get the gnome's character.

This study is from Graham Salter's *35 Melodic Studies*. Each study has a small paragraph giving you tips on how to play a particular aspect to that piece, as well as a technical guide on how to achieve it on the oboe.