

## **Abrsm - grade 5 Clarinet B1 Talkin' the Talk**

**Swing** is a hugely popular style of music –,think of it as the pop music of the 1930's. At this time it was often performed by Big Bands, which were large orchestras divided into trumpets, saxophones, trombones, and a rhythm section (which consisted of the drums, bass, guitar and piano).

Swing is a style to be danced to and should have a clear melody and a good beat.

Historically Swing was sandwiched between two huge events. The Great Depression, which started with the stock market crash in America in 1929, and WWII which ended in 1945. So the original Swing Era was during the Depression – and it acted as a kind of rebellion against the unemployment and misery that the Depression caused. It served to distract people from the daily grind of reality.

### **Mike Cornick**

Following early years of formal piano tuition, Mike became an enthusiastic jazz pianist.

He later studied composition at the Trinity College of Music, London where he was awarded the Ascherberg Composition Prize.

He has taught music in primary, middle and secondary schools and to Adult Education Classes. He is best known for his jazz piano publications many of which have been selected for graded piano examinations world wide.



Download this piece from the free code at the back of your book. Or listen to it here on you tube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4IN6y6BNY8>

Notice how smooth and easy flowing this piece sounds.

There should be a real laid back feel when you are listening even if you don't feel it when you are playing!

## Skills and techniques you will need for this piece.

Dotted rhythms slurs and tonguing should all be familiar to you now so we won't waste time going over them again here. If you need help with these you can refer back to the worksheets on previous grades.

**Swung quavers** should also be a technique you are familiar with but let's just do a quick recap.

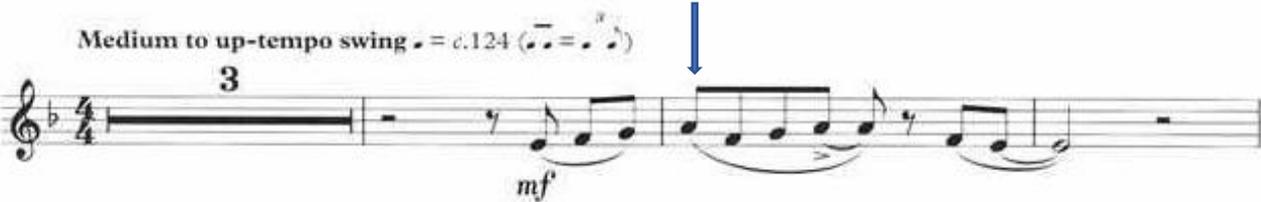
as written



as played



Medium to up-tempo swing  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \cdot 124$  ( $\text{♩} = \text{♩} \cdot 124$ )



In this piece give a little push on the first beat of the bar to help to establish the beat.

## Triplets



Triplets are simply 3 notes played in the time of 2. Think of a three syllable word like Straw-ber-ry to help you keep them even.

Acciaccatura

Written



Sounding



**Acciaccature** or grace notes are written as small notes with a line through the tail. These should sound like the note has been crushed in before the main note.

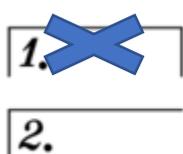
You may like to practice this piece without them first to make sure you are accurate and confident with the beat and timing.

**Demi Semi Quavers**  the notes with three tails – twice as fast as semi quavers.

You will find these in bars 23 – 35 and 39 practice these bars slowly and carefully with a metronome if needed to keep the timing correct.

None of the notes should pose a problem for you in this piece – just make sure you use the most efficient fingerings. I.e. Wherever possible move from left to right or right to left rather than sliding fingers from one key to the next on the same side.

**Remember** there are no repeats needed in the exam for this piece so cut out the first time bar and jump straight to the second time bar.



**Crossing the break smoothly** – whenever possible have your right hand finger in place ready to cross the break. This will allow for a smoother transition.

**Italian terms:-**

p – Piano – Soft

f – Forte – Loud

mf – mezzo forte – medium loud

ff – fortissimo – very loud

cresc – crescendo – getting louder

remember to make a difference between your tongued, accented and slured notes.

Some examples of swing clarinet you may like to listen to.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1AD7x\\_FQL4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1AD7x_FQL4)

One of the best know swing Clarinettist is Benny Goodman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rI8jXhh3Khg>

Or you might like to try Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkXz1zA4jGE>