

CLARINET- Progressing towards grade 2

Some tips, exercises and tunes to build confidence in the upper register.

Being ready for Grade 2 involves

- 1] being comfortable playing [and reading] some high notes
- 2] being able to move across from the low notes to the high notes. Between the top of the lower register and the bottom of the upper register is known as "crossing the break", which needs to be as smooth as possible as you change your fingers. This takes practice!

Ex. I

Handwritten musical notation for Exercise I, showing a sequence of notes on a treble clef staff. The notes are divided into three sections: 'LOWER REGISTER' (G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5), 'BREAK' (G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6), and 'LOWER REGISTER' (G6, F6, E6, D6, C6, B5, A5, G5). The 'BREAK' section is labeled 'BREAK' and is flanked by 'BREAK' labels. The 'LOWER REGISTER' sections are labeled 'LOWER REGISTER'.

The following exercises will help you feel more at home with these skills.

WARM-UP.

This is practising blowing a good low note, and sliding your thumb onto the register key at the back, as well as keeping the thumb hole covered. Only slide a little way- see the picture. The high notes have different names from the low ones [with the same fingerings]

Ex. 2