

Clarinet awards Teachers notes

1. To achieve the Vivaldi Award

Learners can:

Play the notes E,D and C;

Play a piece up to 4 bars long - repeated.

Set up instrument by myself including fitting the reed and ligature;

Recognise 1 and 2 beat notes and rests (crotchets and minims)

Show an improving tone

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical Mates Music (download from website) - Vivaldi award music;

Pieces to be completed by learners - any 1 from list A and B.

Other suitable pieces from other books are:-

Abracadabra clarinet - Number 8 Suo-Gan

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 10 In Paris

Notes to tutors

The learner should be able to make their way through a piece with help, either with notation or teacher playing along as a group or individual. At this point in learning it would be better to concentrate on enthusiasm and confidence as much as possible. Suggested time period 6 weeks.

Report quote

You have made a really good start to playing the clarinet. You can now play 3 notes and you are making good progress with starting to read music. You know what crotchets and minims are and you can set up the instrument by yourself. Keep trying your best and see if for the next award you can make a better tone. Well done!

2. To achieve the Mozart Award

Learners can:

Play the notes F natural and open G;

Play a piece up to 8 bars long – repeated;

Play as a group or individual with minimal help from teacher.

Develop and improve my tone.

Play a semibreve (4 beat note)

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical Mates Music (download from website) - Mozart award music;

Pieces to be completed by learners - any 1 from list A and B.

Other suitable pieces from other books are

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 16 Now The Day Is Over

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 14 Clown Dance (Although it does not use the note G)

Notes to tutors

There should be significant progress made from the first award. The accuracy of playing should be much improved and tone and articulation developing. It would be good to encourage learners to try and practice more. Suggested time period 6 weeks.

Report quote

Well done. You've learnt 5 notes so far and you can play longer notes as well. Your reading of music is also getting much better and you can play much faster. You don't squeak as much and when you concentrate you can make a good tone. Why not go back to the beginning and see how well you can play the first pieces of music you learnt. In the next award you will be looking playing longer pieces of music and learning a few more new notes although still only using your left hand. Well done and keep trying your best.

3. To achieve the Mendelssohn Award

Learners can:

Play high F# and A. (Still all in the left hand)

Play and understand quavers.

Play with a good fluid tone with only minor mistakes

Play 8 bars of music repeated.

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical Mates Music (download from website) - Mendelssohn award music;

Pieces to be completed by learners - any 1 from list A and B.

Other suitable pieces from other books are:-

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 36 Come And Sing Together

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 47 Old MacDonald (Covers note A)

Note to teachers.

Pupils should now be able to play with confidence and use all the main notes associated with the left hand. The learners should be able to both jump between notes (such as C to open G) and scale passages. Tempo should be steady and learners gradually increasing their playing speed. Suggested time period 6 weeks.

Report quote

Fantastic news - you can play lots of notes now and have you noticed the music is much more exciting. You can also do big leaps between notes and you understand what a scale is. Your tone is really improving and you can now phrase notes together to make a good performance. Well done!

4. To achieve the Stravinsky Award

Learners can:

Play the notes Bb, B natural, A and bottom G. (These are now essentially the notes needed for ABRSM Grade 1 Clarinet);

Improve my tone and reading notation ability;

Implement dynamics and other markings into my performance;

Do octave jumps from G to open G;

Understand dotted notes. (Both crochets and minims);

Play High Bb.

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical Mates Music (download from website) - Stravinsky award music.

Pieces to be completed by learners - any 1 from list A, B and C

Other suitable pieces from other books are:-

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 40 Love me Tender

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 38 Ode To Joy

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 52 Daisy Bell

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 42 Scarborough Fair.

Note to teachers.

It would be great to see some improvements in articulation at this point of the awards, in particular attention to Improved tonguing and use of slurs. Learners should also start to understand what dynamics are, even if they can't execute them effectively in a piece of music. Suggested time period 10 weeks.

Report quote

Well done! You can now play most of the notes in the lower register. You can also now play lots of good melodies and you are developing a sense of dynamics. You now understand and can play dotted rhythms and how they working in music. You are making good progress with slurs and you are starting to be able to tongue notes. You have a good idea of phrasing and you can confidently play the clarinet in a performance to others.

Well done!

5. To achieve the Copeland Award

(Final award - this is aimed as a grade 1 unit)

Learners can:

Confidently play bottom G to middle Bb.

Use slurs, accents, dynamics to play a piece of music with confidence and style.

Understand syncopation.

Develop a good sense of time and rhythm.

Play as a solo unaided.

Play low F#

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical Mates Music (download from website) - Copeland award music;

Pieces to be completed by learners - all from list A,B and C.

Other suitable pieces from other books are:-

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 50 Turpin Hero

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 69 Lord of all Hopefulness (Covers both Bb's)

Abracadabra Clarinet - Number 71 While Shepherds Watched (Covers low F sharp)

Note to teachers.

This should indicate whether the learner is ready to go for ABRSM Grade 1.

The pieces contain many aspects of the scales and arpeggios. This is split into list A - scales, list B - arpeggios and list C more difficult rhythms. (Not un similar to the ABRSM pieces). This is designed to cross over the first year of learning. This is in no way a definitive guide to progression but is designed to give learners clear goals in a time frame. 10 weeks.

Report quote.

Well done indeed. You are now ready to take the grade 1 ABRSM exam if you would like to. You have learnt all the notes and have the skills to play the pieces. Your teacher will help you with some of the other elements of the exam, like scales and arpeggios/aural tests and sight reading. What an achievement. Very well done to you!