

Recorder awards Teacher notes

1. To achieve the Vivaldi Award

Learners can:

Play the notes B and A;

Play a piece of music up to 4 bars long;

Recognise 1, 2 and 4 beat notes - crotchet, minim and semibreve;

Recognise 1 and 2 beat rests;

Play without overblowing.

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical mates core recorder module up to the note A, page

Music from red hot recorder

Wet and Windy (Track 6) Covers A and B

How about this (Track 7) Covers A and B

Notes to tutors

The learners should be able to make their way through a piece with help, either with notation or teacher playing along as a group or individual.

Suggested time period half a ter

Report quote

You have made a really good start to playing the recorder. You can now play 2 notes and you are making good progress in 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 play with a constantly good sound.

2. To achieve the Mozart Award

Learners can:

Play the notes B,A and G;

Play a piece up to 8 bars long - possibly repeated.

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

Demonstrate an improving sense of rhythm.

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical mates core recorder module up to the note G and performance materials

Music from red hot recorder

Skat Cat Swing (Track 11) Covers all 3 notes

Note to teachers

There should be significant progress made since achieving the first award.

The accuracy of playing should be much improved and breath control developing. Suggested time half a term.

Report quote

Well done. You've learnt 3 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 overblow as much and when you concentrate you can make play with a fluid rhythm. You can play in a small group, by yourself or as a whole class. Well done and keep trying your best.

3. To achieve the Mendelssohn Award

Learners can:

Play the notes C, C# and D

Play with a good improving fluid tone with only minor mistakes and a better sense of rhythm

Play a piece 8 bars long of music repeated.

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Musical mates core recorder module - all music.

Music from red hot recorder

Daisy Chain Walk (Track 41) (Has one low D in the tune but can be substituted for a high D)

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 play both scale and arpeggio phrases. Tempo should be steady and increasing in speed.

Suggested time period half a term.

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 new notes using the right hand - F and E;
Improve my tone and reading notation ability;
Understand and play dynamics/musical markings;
Understand and be able to play quavers;
Begin to play music in parts;
Understand and play dotted rhythms;
Play the note Bb;

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Suggested music from red hot recorder
Lottie Collins' Lament (Track 32) Introduces F sharp and E
Night Light (Introduces note E)
I Remember L.R. (Introduces quavers, the note F sharp and the note C sharp)

Note to teachers

It would be great to see some articulation at this point if possible. Improved tonguing and use of slurs. Learners should start to understand what dynamics are, even if they can't execute them in a piece. Suggested time period half a term.

Report quote

Well done! You can now play 2 of the notes in your right hand. You can now play lots of good melodies and you are developing a sense of dynamics. You also now understand 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 recorder in a performance to others. Well done!

5. To achieve the Copeland Award

Learners can:

Play the lowest 2 notes - low C and low D;

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

Develop a good sense of time and rhythm;

Play a solo unaided;

Play without the help of any notes written under the stave.

Music that will help learners achieve the award

Suggested music from red hot recorder.

Toboggan Man (Track 33) Introduces low D and F sharp

Tea with the Tumbers (Track 26) Introduces low D

Note to teachers.

This should help you assess whether the learner is really able and keen to progress onto another instrument. 1 term.

Report quote.

Well done indeed. You are now ready to take the next step and look at starting another instrument if you would like to. You have learnt how to read music and have the skills to play many pieces . What an achievement. Very well done to you!