

# Sax awards teacher notes

## 1. To achieve the Vivaldi Award

### Learners can:

Play the notes B, A and G;

Play a piece up to 4 bars long – repeated;

Set up the instrument by myself, including fitting the reed and sling;

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.

Suggested music from other books:

Abracadabra Saxophone - Number 6 Suo-Gan

Abracadabra Saxophone - Number 8 Au Clair De La Lune

### Notes to tutors

The learner should be able to make their way through a piece of music with help, either with notation or with the teacher playing along as a group or individual. Suggested time period: 6 weeks.

### Report quote

You have made a really good start to playing the saxophone. You can now play 3 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 make a better tone.

## **2. To achieve the Mozart Award**

### **Learners can:**

Play the note C;

Play a piece of music up to 8 bars long – repeated;

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

Develop and improve tone and breathing;

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 or B.

Suggested music from other books:

Abracadabra Saxophone - Number 17 Clown Dance

Abracadabra Saxophone - Number 18 Rigaudon (Not the first 8 bars of the tune, only the last 8 bars)

### **Notes to tutors**

There should be significant progress made from the first award particularly in terms of the sound produced. The accuracy of playing should be much improved and tone developing. Suggested time period: 6 weeks.

### **Report quote**

Well done! You've learnt 4 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. In the next award you will be looking playing longer pieces of music and learning a few new notes still all in your left hand. Well done and keep trying your best!

### **3. To achieve the Mendelssohn Award**

#### **Learners can:**

Play notes low F and F# and E

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 or B.

Suggested music from other books:

Abracadabra saxophone - Number 40 'When the saints go marching in' (The tune could be cut down to the first 8 bars to meet the criteria for the award

Abracadabra saxophone - Number 42 'What is this tune' (The note D could be replaced with the note Bb).

#### **Notes to tutors**

Pupils should now be able to play with confidence. The learners should be able to both jump between notes and manage scale passages. Tempo should be steady and increasing in 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 high D and low D;

Play the notes Bb and C#;

Improved tone and reading notation ability;

Understand and implement dynamics and other markings into playing;

Understand dotted notes (Both crochets and minims).

### **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 or C.

Suggested music from other books:

Abracadabra saxophone - Number 51 'Somebody's knocking at your door'

Abracadabra saxophone - Number 53 'Joshua fit the battle of Jericho'

### **Notes to tutors**

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: 10 weeks.

### **Report quote**

Well done! You can now play in both registers. 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 saxophone 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 up to the note G in the upper octave;

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 un-aided;

Play low C.

### **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 or C.

Suggested music from other books:

Abracadabra saxophone - Number 70 'Ragtime' (Includes C sharp)

Abracadabra saxophone - Number 72 'You are my sunshine' (Includes F sharp and C sharp)

### **Notes to tutors**

This award should indicate whether the learner is ready to in for the grade 1 exam. 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 dis-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. Suggested 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 of the notes and have the skills to play various pieces of music. Your teacher will help you with the other elements of

the exam, like scales and arpeggios/aural tests and sight reading. What an achievement! Very well done to you!