

BASS CLARINET

THE

# LET'S PLAY

# Band

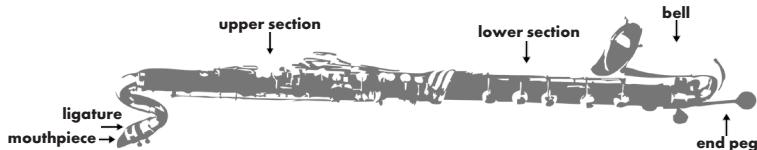
# METHOD

***Edited and Arranged by Derrick Maxey***

**Special thanks to:** Grayson Switzer, Designer, Emily Jones, Designer,  
J.J. Johnson, Percussion Contributor, Daniel Lenzer, Bassoon Contributor  
Instrument fingering font from MusicTeacherTools.com

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# Getting Started



## Assembling Your Instrument

Before assembling your instrument, put the thin end of your reed in your mouth. (If your bass clarinet is in two sections) Hold the lower section in your hand avoiding putting pressure on any keys or rods. Gently twist the bell onto the cork of the lower section. Gently twist the upper section and lower sections together, making sure the bridge key connects and again avoiding putting pressure on any key or rods to avoid damage. Gently twist the bell onto the end of the lower section while holding the key down on the bell. The bell opening should be in line with the line of keys on the front of the instrument. Insert the end pin and adjust to a comfortable height.

Insert the mouthpiece to the neck and attach the neck to the top of the top joint. The opening of the mouthpiece should be facing straight down. You may need to adjust your end pin again for a comfortable playing position.

## Holding Your Instrument

The side of your right thumb should be positioned under the thumb rest. Your first three fingers in each hand cover the tone holes. Make sure to use the fleshy "pad" of each finger, not the fingertip, to cover each tone hole. Keep your elbows out naturally. The instrument rests on the end peg.

## Getting A Sound

Moisten your reed by putting the thin end in your mouth. Place the flat side of the reed up against the flat side of the mouthpiece with the thin end of the reed in line with the tip of the mouthpiece. Carefully slide the ligature down around the reed. Make sure it's loose enough to fit down below the half circle shaved into the reed. Then tighten the screws of the ligature holding the reed in place. Roll your bottom lip over your bottom teeth. Position the mouthpiece on your bottom lip so about half an inch of reed is in your mouth. Your top teeth should rest on top of the mouthpiece. Close your mouth around the mouthpiece keeping your chin down and corners of your mouth firm.

## Playing Position

Many athletes have learned there is a proper way to approach the plate or the free throw line for the highest probability for success; it's the same way when playing an instrument! The following strategies have been proven to ensure the highest probability of achieving the fullest and richest tone quality on your instrument:

- Keep both feet flat on the floor
- Keep your shoulders down and relaxed
- Think about sitting up straight and making yourself as tall as possible

*Bring your instrument up to you,  
don't slouch down to reach your instrument!*



## Air Support

Your instrument is a *wind* instrument. The air you put into the instrument is the key ingredient to the best possible sound. Take each breath in slowly and steadily through your mouth, not your nose. When you breathe out, keep your mouth and throat open and relaxed. Think about using "warm" air. Practice exhaling warm air onto your hand as if you were trying to fog up a window or mirror.

## Instrument Care

Wipe off any extra moisture before returning your reed to the reed case. Run your swab through the mouthpiece before returning it to the instrument case. Mouthpieces should be washed weekly with warm water. Make sure you let it air dry before returning to the case. Shake out any extra moisture from the neck and bell sections before returning them to the case. Put the swab into the bottom end of the instrument and pull through the top end. (If your bass clarinet is in two sections, carefully twist them apart being sure to keep your palms away from bending any of the longer keys.) Always make sure each section is dry before returning to the case.

# Let's Play!



*fermata*

“Keep holding the note until your conductor indicates for you to stop”

**REST**

For a musician, a rest isn't a break, we're always counting or watching the conductor to see when we get to play again!

**E**

Treble clef staff. Notes: E, REST, E, REST, E.

Treble clef staff. Notes: E, E, E, E, REST, F, F, F, F, REST, G, G, G, G.

**D**

Treble clef staff. Notes: D, REST, D, REST, D.

Treble clef staff. Notes: D, D, D, D, REST, D, D, E, E, REST, E, E, D, D.

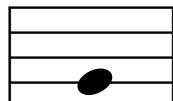
**C**

Treble clef staff. Notes: C, REST, C, REST, C.

Treble clef staff. Notes: C, C, C, C, REST, C, D, E, F, REST, F, E, D, C.

# Fingerings

G



○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○

F



○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○

E



○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○  
○○○○○

*mf*  
mezzo forte  
"medium loud"

## music theory



**whole note**

sustain sound 4 beats



**whole rest**

count 4 beats rest

1

### Lift Off



*mf*

2

### Around The Room



Low Brass/Low WW

Horns/Altos

Trumpets

Fl/Ob/C1

\* if a dynamic marking is not listed, mezzo forte is implied

3

### Stargazing



|| **repeat sign**  
go back to the beginning,  
or another repeat sign

### key signature



an accidental can appear before the note, or at the beginning of the line in what's called the 'key signature'

4

### Oracle



mf

5

### Interstellar



6

### Memory



7

### Three Note Funk



mf

### Herbie Hancock



Herbie Hancock is an American pianist that during his time with the Miles Davis Quintet, started playing jazz piano like no one ever had before. He was one of the inventors of a new subgenre of jazz called "Post-Bop."

**"Watermelon Man"**  
by Herbie Hancock



### "Subwoofer Lullaby"

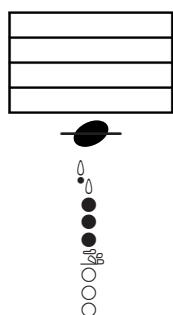
from the Minecraft Soundtrack

Get extra practice playing **whole notes** and the note **"Concert D"** by scanning the QR Play Button below.

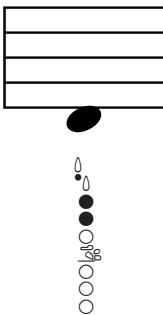


# Fingerings

C



D



*mp*  
mezzo piano  
“medium soft”

## music theory



**half note**

sustain sound 2 beats



**half rest**

count 2 beats rest

8

*Au Claire de la Lune*

Welsh Folk Song



9

*Cardiff By The Sea*

French Folk Song

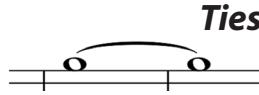


10

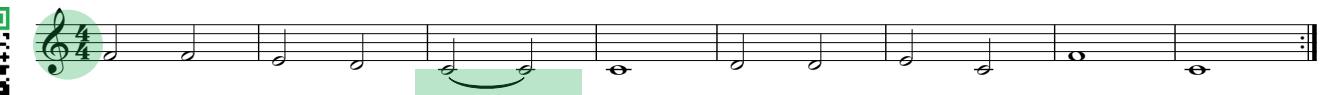
*Hot Cross Buns*

English Folk Song



**time signature****4****beats** in a measure  
**quarter note** gets the beat**Ties**combines the values  
of two notes. Don't  
tongue the second note**11****Country Walk**

French Folk Song

**12****Merrily We Roll Along**

Charlie Tobias

**13****Down By The Station**

Traditional

**Ola Gjeilo**

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer and pianist currently residing in Manhattan. He is primarily a choral **composer**, meaning he writes pieces of music to be sung by choirs. He is best known for his works "Dreamweaver" and "The River".

**"Still"**  
by Ola Gjeilo

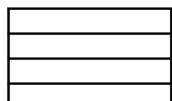
**"Hey Ya!"**  
by Outkast (2003)

Get extra practice playing **half notes** and the notes "**Concert C and Bb**" by scanning the QR Play Button below:

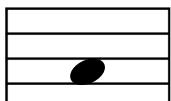


# Fingerings

B



A

**breath mark**

the best spot to take a deep breath through your mouth



## music theory



**quarter note**  
gets 1 beat



**quarter rest**  
count 1 beat

14

### Stodola Pumpa

Czech Folk Song



1. [1. 2.]

15

### Jingle Bells

James Lord Pierpont



16

### Go Tell Aunt Rhody

American Folk Song





**1st and 2nd Endings** some repeats indicate a different ending to play for each time through

1. 2.

## 17 *Jasmine Flower*

Chinese Folk Song



## 18 *Surprise Symphony*

Joseph Haydn



## 19 *Mary Ann*

Jamaican Folk Song



### *The Kronos Quartet*



The Kronos Quartet is a string quartet based in San Francisco. A **quartet** is a musical ensemble consisting of four musicians. Kronos has been in existence since 1973 and has had over nine hundred musical pieces composed for them.

**“Lux Aeterna”**  
by The Kronos Quartet



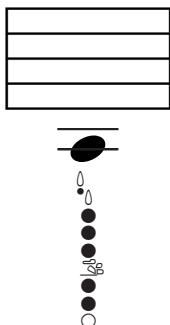
**“Look What You Made Me Do”**  
by Taylor Swift (2017)

Get extra practice playing **quarter notes** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



# Fingerings

**A**



**pp**  
*pianissimo*  
“very soft”

## music theory



**cresc.**

**crescendo**  
gradually get louder



**decresc.**

**decrescendo**  
gradually get softer

**20**

*Also Sprach Zarathustra*

Richard Strauss



**21**

*Ha'Kyo Jung*

Korean Folk Song



**22**

*Rondo alla Turca*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



**23**

*Good King Wenceslas*

Finnish Folk Song



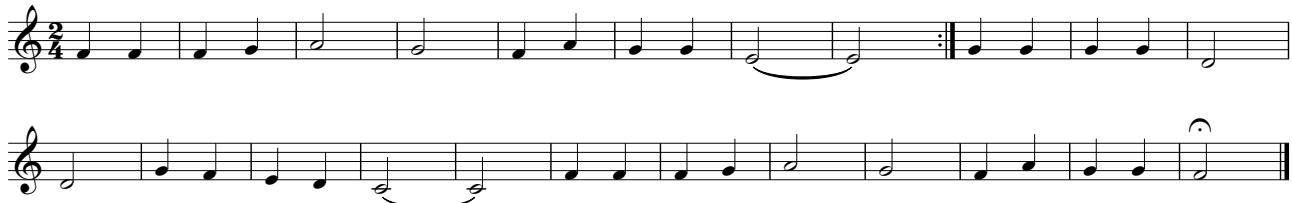
**pick up notes**

notes that happen  
before the first full  
measure

24

**The Bridge At Avignon**

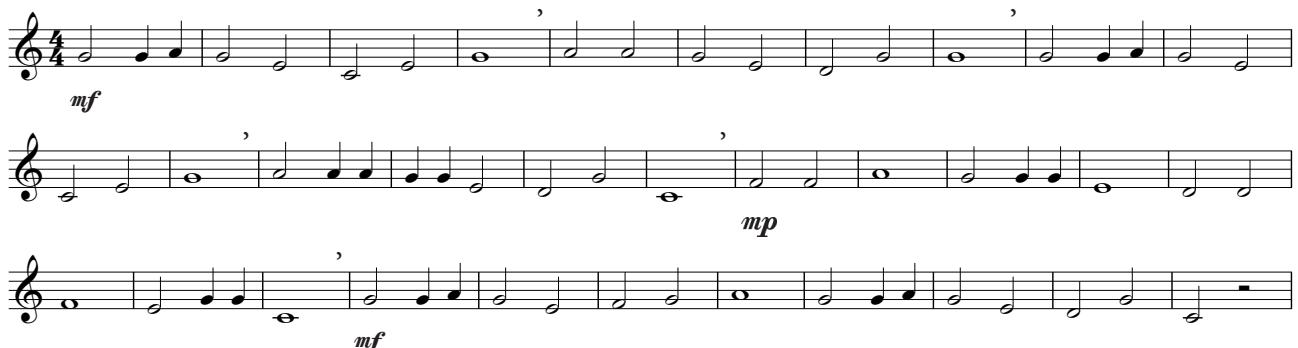
French Folk Song



25

**Up On The Housetop**

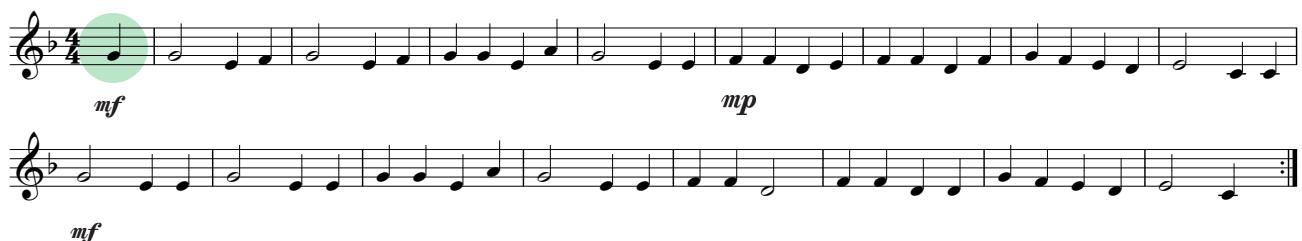
Benjamin Hanby



26

**A Tisket A Tasket**

American Folk Song

**Aretha Franklin**

Aretha Franklin was a vocalist and pianist who is still regarded today as the "Queen of Soul. **Soul** is a style of music that combines elements of gospel, rhythm and blues and jazz and became popular in the U.S. in the 1950s and 60s.

**"A Tisket A Tasket"**  
by Aretha Franklin

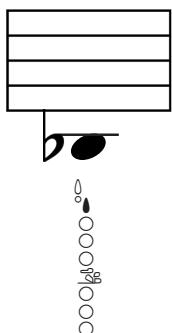
**"You Should See Me In A Crown"**  
by Billie Eilish (2019)

Get extra practice playing **quarter notes** and the note "**Concert G**" by scanning the QR Play Button below:

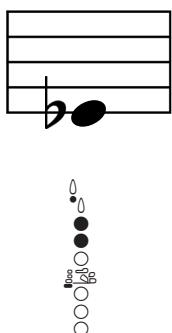


# Fingerings

**Bb**



**Eb**



**C**

**"common time"**

*another way of  
indicating  $\frac{4}{4}$  time*

## music theory

### "accidentals"

- flat lowers the sound of the note
- sharp raises the sound of the note
- natural cancels out a sharp or flat

**27**

**Mary Had A Little Lamb**

American Folk Song



**28**

**Jolly Old Saint Nicholas**

James R. Murray, words by Emily Clark Huntington Miller



**29**

**Love Somebody**

Joan Whitney, Alex Kramer



**time signatures**

**2 3 4** *beats in a measure*  
**4** *quarter note gets the beat*

**tempo** - how fast or slow to play

**Andante** slow      **Moderato** medium      **Allegro** fast

**30****Dredyl, Dredyl**

Allegro



Israeli Folk Song

**31****London Bridge**

Moderato



English Folk Song

**32****Amigas**

\* if a tempo marking is not listed, Moderato is implied



Hispanic Folk Song

**"Duke" Ellington**

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was a **prolific** jazz composer, meaning he wrote a great number of jazz compositions, many which are still considered 'standards' today. The "Duke" helped propel jazz to being regarded on the same level as classical music.

**"Mood Indigo"**  
by Duke Ellington**"Carol of the Bells"**  
by Transiberian Orchestra (1996)

Get extra practice playing in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time and the notes "**Concert Ab and Db**" by scanning the QR Play Button below:

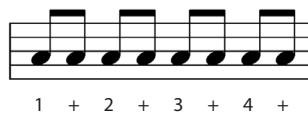


**3** beats in a measure  
**4** quarter note gets the beat

**ff**  
**fortissimo**  
 “very loud”

## music theory

### eighth notes



two eighth notes  
 fit equally into  
 each beat



**“Cantaloupe Island” by Herbie Hancock**

## 33 Old Macdonald

British Folk Song

Allegro

## 34 Ezekial Saw The Wheel

African American Spiritual

**Slur**

connect two notes by  
only tonguing the  
first one

# 35 Bonjour Mes Amis

French Folk Song



# 36 Chiapanecas

Mexican Folk Song



# 37 Goodbye Old Paint

Charley Willis



## Miles Davis



Miles Davis was an American trumpeter and bandleader that became one of the most influential figures in 20th century music. Throughout his career he continued to innovate and find new ways to play the trumpet and compose music.

### **"All Blues"** by Miles Davis



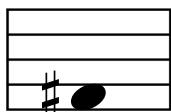
### **"We Will Rock You"** by Queen (1977)

Get extra practice playing **eighth notes** and the notes **"Concert Ab and Db"** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



# Fingerings

**F#**



**Bb**



*sfz*  
*sforzando piano*  
“attack the note forte  
and hold it piano”

## music theory

### dotted half note



when a dot is placed beside a note it adds half the original value to the note.  
Dotted half notes get 3 beats.

**38**

### Theme from Symphony No. 1

Johannes Brahms



**39**

### Roses

Hispanic Folk Song



**40**

### Oranges and Lemons

English Folk Song



**triplets**

three notes that are  
playing evenly  
within one beat

**articulation** - a special way to play a note

**tenuto**  
long

**staccato**  
short

**accent**  
emphasized

## 41 "Spring" from *Four Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi



Allegro

## 42 *It Had To Be You*

Isham Jones



## 43 *Minka, Minka*

Ukrainian Folk Song



Allegro

### Samuel Barber



Samuel Barber was one of the most celebrated American composers of the 20th century. While many composers of the time were experimenting with new harmonies, Samuel chose notes in his compositions that more reflected a 19th-century harmonic understanding.

### "Adagio for Strings" by Samuel Barber



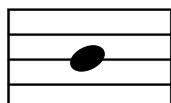
### "Star Wars Theme" by John Williams (1977)

Get extra practice playing **triplets** and the note **"Concert High Ab"** by scanning the QR Play Button below:

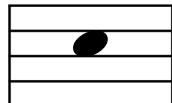


# Fingerings

B



C



*eighth rest*  
rest half a beat

## music theory

### eighth note runs



*When multiple eighth note pairs occur in a row they maintain the same rhythm and timing. Keep your air going!*



**"Maiden Voyage" by Herbie Hancock**

44

**Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**

English Folk Song



45

**"Morning" from Peer Gynt**

Andante

Edvard Grieg



46

**Frere Jacques**

French Folk Song



47

**Academic Festival Overture**

Johannes Brahms



48

**Lo Yisa Goy**

Israeli Folk Song



49

**Skip To My Lou**

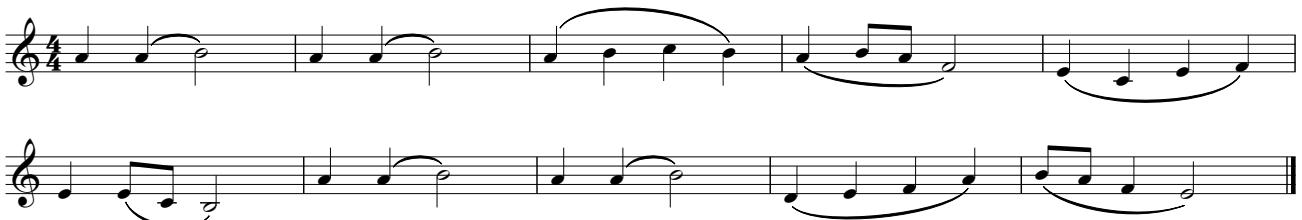
American Folk Song



50

**Sakura**

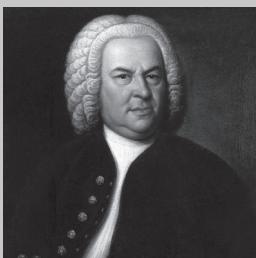
Japanese Folk Song



51

**Musette**

Allegro

**Johann Sebastian Bach**

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and probably the most recognizable composer of the Baroque Era. The **Baroque Era** was the musical time period in Western Music between 1600-1750 and happened right before the Classical Era.

**"Musette"**  
by J.S. Bach

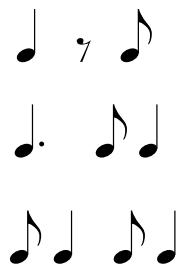
**"Heathens"**

by Twenty One Pilots (2016)

Get extra practice playing **eighth note runs** and the note **"Concert High A"** by scanning the QR Play Button below:



**“syncopated” rhythms**  
*rhythms that emphasize  
 the “& count” or weak beat*



**fp**  
*forte piano*  
 “attack the phrase forte  
 and continue at piano”

**music theory**

**dotted quarter note**



Just like dotted half notes, a dotted quarter gets an extra half of the original value. Getting one and a half beats puts the note or rest after it on the “up” beat or “& count”.

**53** *Tzena, Tzena*

Jewish Folk Song



**54** *San Sereni*

Spanish Folk Song



**55** *Prince Of Denmark’s March*

Henry Wood



**56** *Little Donkey*

Eric Boswell



57

**Ode To Joy**

Music notation for "Ode To Joy" in 4/4 time. The dynamic is *fp* (fortissimo).

Ludwig van Beethoven

58

**Arirang**

Music notation for "Arirang" in 3/4 time. The notation consists of two staves of music.

Korean Folk Song

59

**New World Symphony**

Music notation for "New World Symphony" in 4/4 time. The notation consists of two staves of music.

Anton Dvorak

60

**Kum Ba Yah**

Music notation for "Kum Ba Yah" in 4/4 time. The dynamic is *fp* (fortissimo). The notation includes two endings, 1. and 2.

African American Spiritual

61

**Hey Ho, Nobody's Home**

Music notation for "Hey Ho, Nobody's Home" in 4/4 time. The dynamics are *mf* (mezzo-forte), *fp* (fortissimo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

English Folk Song

**Bette Midler**



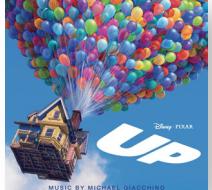
Bette Midler is an American singer and songwriter who made her motion picture debut in the 1979 film "The Rose". Her recording of the title song became a chart hit and helped propel her award-winning career in showbusiness of over half a century.

**"The Rose"**  
by Amanda McBroom



**"Married Life"**  
from the Up Soundtrack (2009)

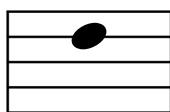
Get extra practice playing **dotted quarter notes** and **syncopated rhythms** by scanning the QR Play Button below:





# Fingerings

D



## D.C. al Coda

D.C. or "da capo" al Coda means to go to the beginning and then go to the Coda. After playing the measure that says "To Coda" jump to the measure with the Coda sign.

62

### The Charleston

Allegro



James P. Johnson

To Coda

63

### Aloha Oe

Lili'uokalani



64

### Loch Lomond

Scottish Folk Song



65

**Maple Leaf Rag**

Allegro



Scott Joplin



66

**El Juego Chirimbolo**

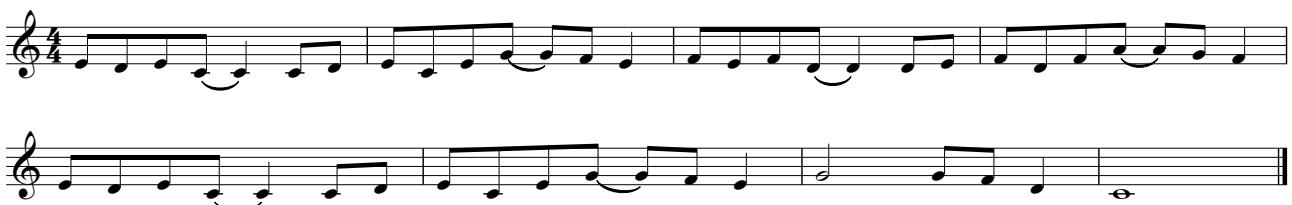
Spanish Folk Song



67

**Rock A My Soul**

African American Spiritual



68

**Give My Regards To Broadway**

George M. Cohan

**Billie Holiday**

Billie Holiday was a celebrated jazz and swing vocalist who would influence pop singing for decades to come. Her vocal style was greatly influenced by the sounds of jazz instrumentalists.

**"God Bless The Child"**  
by Billie Holiday**"Megalovania"**  
by Toby Fox (2015)

Get extra practice playing advanced **syncopated rhythms** and **Concert High C** by scanning the QR Play Button below:

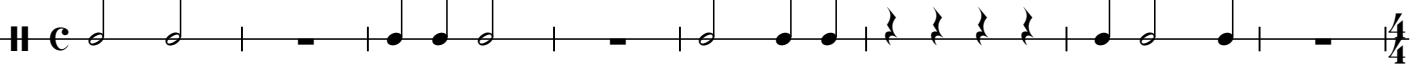


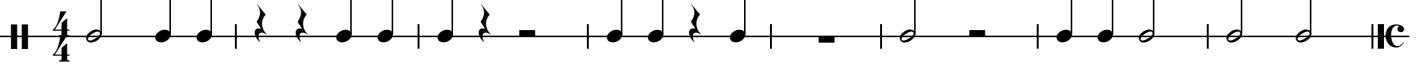
## Rhythm Reading

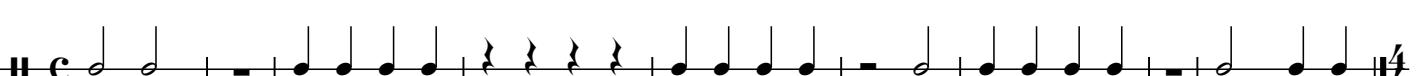
1 

2 

3 

4 

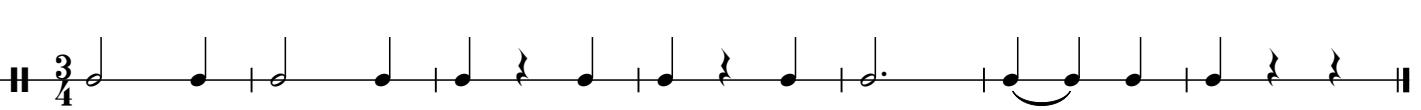
5 

6 

7 

8 

9 

10 

# 5 Note Scales

## **E Major Scale (D Concert)**

## **A Major Scale (G Concert)**

## **D Major Scale (C Concert)**

## **G Major Scale (F Concert)**

## **C Major Scale (Bb Concert)**

## **F Major Scale (Eb Concert)**

## **Bb Major Scale (Ab Concert)**

## **Eb Major Scale (Db Concert)**

## **Ab Major Scale (Gb Concert)**

## **Db Major Scale (B Concert)**

## **F# Major Scale (E Concert)**

## **B Major Scale (A Concert)**

# Clarinet Fingering Chart



|              | E | F   | F# Gb | G |
|--------------|---|---|-------|---|
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   |   |       |   |
| <b>C</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>E</b>     |   |   |       |   |
| <b>G# Ab</b> |   | <img alt="Fretboard diagram for A. The 1st, 3 |       |   |