

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR BAND

COMPREHENSIVE BAND METHOD

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Band is... **M**aking music with a family of lifelong friends.

Understanding how commitment and dedication lead to success.

Sharing the joy and rewards of working together.

Individuals who develop self-confidence.

Creativity—expressing yourself in a universal language.

Band is... **MUSIC!**

Strike up the band,

Tim Lautzenheiser

In 1690, the German instrument maker Johann Denner invented the clarinet by transforming the double reed “chalumeau” (*shall-you-mo*) into a single reed instrument. Since the chalumeau could only play notes in a low range, he added a “register key” to allow his new instrument to play higher notes. The word clarinet comes from the Italian word *clarino*, used for an older type of high-pitched trumpet. Today the low range of the clarinet is still called the “chalumeau register,” because of the low notes of the original chalumeau.

By the 1840’s, two French instrument makers named Klosé and Buffet had created a clarinet fingering system modeled after the flute key system designed by Boehm. Nearly all clarinets today are made with the Boehm system.

The clarinet family includes the B \flat Clarinet, the A Clarinet (used in some orchestra music), the B \flat Bass Clarinet, the E \flat Soprano and Alto Clarinets, the E \flat Contrabass Clarinet and B \flat Contrabass Clarinet. Fingerings are virtually the same for all clarinets, making it possible for a clarinetist to play any of the instruments. As one of the primary instruments in the sound of a concert band, clarinets play melodies, harmonies and solos. Bass clarinets provide important bass instrument support in the concert band. They also play solos and blend with other band instruments.

Mozart, Brahms, Weber, Bartok and Hindemith are among the important composers who have featured clarinets in their writing. Some famous clarinetists include Richard Stoltzman, Benny Goodman, Eddie Daniels and Stanley Drucker.

HISTORY OF THE BASS CLARINET

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THE BASICS

Posture

Sit on the edge of your chair, and always keep your:

- Spine straight and tall
- Shoulders back and relaxed
- Feet flat on the floor

Breathing & Airstream

Breathing is a natural thing we all do constantly. To discover the correct airstream to play your instrument:

- Place the palm of your hand near your mouth.
- Inhale deeply through the corners of your mouth, keeping your shoulders steady. Your waist should expand like a balloon.
- Slowly whisper "too" as you gradually exhale air into your palm.

The air you feel is the airstream. It produces sound through the instrument. Your tongue is like a faucet or valve that releases the airstream.

Producing The Essential Tone

Your embouchure (*ahm'-bah-shure*) is your mouth's position on the mouthpiece of the instrument. A good embouchure takes time and effort, so carefully follow these steps for success:

REED PLACEMENT

- Put the thin end of the reed in your mouth to moisten it thoroughly.
- Looking at the flat side of the mouthpiece, the ligature screws extend to your right. Slide the ligature up with your thumb.
- Place the flat side of the reed against the mouthpiece under the ligature.
- Lower the ligature and position the reed so that only a hairline of the mouthpiece can be seen above the reed.
- Gently tighten the ligature screws.

EMBOUCHURE

- Moisten your lips and roll the lower lip slightly over your bottom teeth.
- Firm the corners of your mouth like a slightly puckered smile.
- Stretch your chin downward.
- Place the mouthpiece on your lower lip so that the reed extends about 3/4 inch into your mouth. Place upper teeth on top of the mouthpiece.
- Close your mouth around the mouthpiece. Keep the corners of the mouth firm and the chin pointing downward.

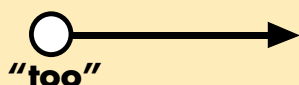
Taking Care Of Your Instrument

Before putting your instrument back in its case after playing, do the following:

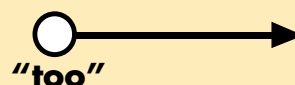
- Remove the reed, wipe off excess moisture and return it to the reed case.
- Remove the mouthpiece and wipe the inside with a clean cloth. Once a week, wash the mouthpiece with warm tap water. Dry thoroughly.
- Remove the neck and bell, and shake out excess moisture. Return them to the case.
- Drop a weighted chamois or cotton swab into the body of the instrument and pull it out the top end.
- If the body of your bass clarinet has two sections, gently twist them apart. Return the body section(s) to the case.
- As you put each piece back in the case, check to be sure they are dry.
- Your case is designed to hold only specific objects. If you try to force anything else into the case, it may damage your instrument.

MOUTHPIECE WORKOUT

Form your embouchure around the mouthpiece, and take a deep breath without raising your shoulders. Whisper "too" and gradually exhale your full airstream. Strive for an even tone.

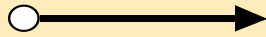


REST



REST

Long Tone



To begin, we'll use a special "Long Tone" note. Hold the tone until your teacher tells you to rest. Practice long tones each day to develop your sound.

1. THE FIRST NOTE

G Hold each long tone until your teacher tells you to rest.

"G" is played **open**. Keep your fingers relaxed and curved above the tone holes.

The Beat

The **beat** is the pulse of music, and like your heartbeat it should remain very steady. Counting aloud and foot-tapping help us maintain a steady beat. Tap your foot **down** on each number and **up** on each "&."

One beat = 1 &
 ↓ ↑

Notes And Rests

Notes tell us how high or low to play by their placement on a line or space of the music staff, and how long to play by their shape. **Rests** tell us to count silent beats.

Quarter Note = 1 beat
 Quarter Rest = 1 silent beat

2. COUNT AND PLAY

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Tap: ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

3. A NEW NOTE

F Look for the fingering diagram with each new note.

▲ The black circles tell you which tone holes to cover or keys to press. "F" is played with the **left thumb**.

4. TWO'S A TEAM

Count & Tap: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

5. HEADING DOWN

E Practice long tones on each new note.

6. MOVING ON UP

Count & Tap: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Notes In Review

Memorize the fingerings for the notes you've learned:

14. ROLLING ALONG

Go to the next line. ▼

Double Bar ▼

Half Note

Half Rest

15. RHYTHM RAP

Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping.

Clap *Repeat Sign* ▼

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

16. THE HALF COUNTS

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

17. HOT CROSS BUNS

Check your embouchure and hand position.

Breath Mark



Take a deep breath through your mouth after you play a full-length note.

18. GO TELL AUNT RHODIE

American Folk Song

19. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ

Using the note names and rhythms below, draw your notes on the staff before playing.

F G F E F E D C D E F E F

Fermata

Hold the note (or rest) longer than normal.

27. REACHING HIGHER – New Note

Practice long tones on each new note.

Fermata

A

28. AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE

French Folk Song

29. REMIX
THEORY**Harmony**Two or more notes played together. Each combination forms a *chord*.**30. LONDON BRIDGE – Duet**

English Folk Song

A

B

HISTORY

Austrian composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791) was a child prodigy who started playing professionally at age six, and lived during the time of the American Revolution. Mozart's music is melodic and imaginative. He wrote more than 600 compositions during his short life, including a piano piece based on the famous song, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

31. A MOZART MELODY

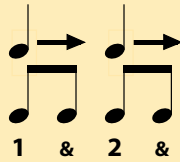
Adaptation

32. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ Draw these symbols where they belong and write in the note names before you play:

Eighth Notes



Each Eighth Note = $\frac{1}{2}$ Beat
2 Eighth Notes = 1 Beat
Play on down and up taps.



Two or more Eighth Notes have a *beam* across the stems.



40. RHYTHM RAP *Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping.*

Clap

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

41. EIGHTH NOTE JAM

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

42. SKIP TO MY LOU

American Folk Song

43. LONG, LONG AGO *Good posture improves your sound. Always sit straight and tall.*

44. OH, SUSANNA

Stephen Collins Foster

HISTORY

Italian composer **Gioacchino Rossini** (1792–1868) began composing as a teenager and was very proficient on the piano, viola and horn. He wrote “William Tell” at age 37 as the last of his forty operas, and its familiar theme is still heard today on radio and television.

45. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ — WILLIAM TELL

Gioacchino Rossini