



# Instrumental Updates May 2020

## Clarinet



Hi everyone. We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Each half term we will be sending you some hints and tips to keep you motivated in your playing. We'll have a specific focus for each update as well as suggested further listening/videos to watch. If you would like to send us a video of your playing to be shared on social media then please let us know. It would be great to see some more clarinet performances!

### FOCUS OF THE MONTH – ARTICULATION

Articulation is all about the way that we articulate/play the notes. On the clarinet this could simply be tonguing or slurring. There are lots of different types of articulation markings that you might see in your music.

#### **Tonguing**

- Tip of the tongue on the tip of the reed
- Use your tongue to separate the notes whilst blowing a continuous air stream through your clarinet
- When your tongue touches the reed it stops it from vibrating and therefore stops the sound

#### **Slurring**

- Start the first note with your tongue and then keep blowing continuously whilst you move your fingers to change between different notes
- This is also called *legato* which means to play smoothly



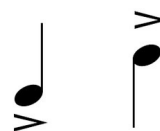
#### **Staccato**

- These are short, crisp and detached notes
- Use your tongue lightly



#### **Accent**

- Add some extra force behind the note with plenty of air
- Use your tongue to start the note clearly



#### **Tenuto**

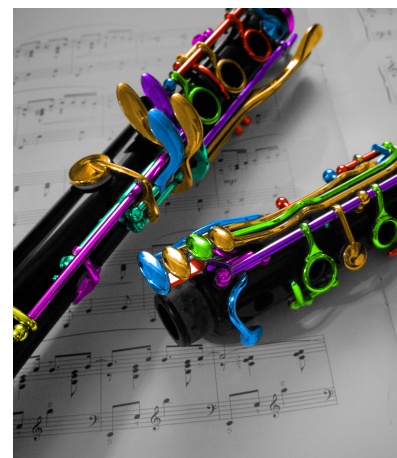
- Hold the note for its full length
- Sustain these notes with a little more emphasis/air



### **WARM-UPS**

Check out our Musica Kirklees YouTube channel for some warm-up ideas. There are videos to help you with setting up your instrument, scales, embouchure exercises and some easy tunes to play along with. Keep checking the Clarinet playlist below for further videos being uploaded.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU7ZU3i58ey8PWJhA5Uu4M2UaqVI3UTzc>



## Put on a concert!

### Have fun with your old tunes

- You could put on a concert for your family! Write a programme listing the pieces you are going to perform
- Issue tickets to your family so they know when and where you will perform eg: 3pm, in the lounge
- You could even play them your own made-up tunes (compositions)

### A good practise routine

- Check that your clarinet is set up correctly and that the tip of the reed is level with the top of the mouthpiece
- Warm up with some long notes and really listen to the sound that you are making
- Play some scales and arpeggios - tongued and slurred
- Practise your pieces - try to have a clear goal in mind of what you are wanting to achieve
- Don't always start your pieces at the beginning! Choose a different place to start from each time or just work on a particular section
- Finish off by playing something that you know really well and enjoy



### Have you been watching this years BBC Young Musician?

You can watch the competition on BBC Four and BBC iPlayer.

Some of the UK's best young musicians compete to win the title of BBC Young Musician 2020. Episode two is the Woodwind category final. Here's a link to the highlights where you can see Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon and Recorder players all performing to a really high standard! Can you pick the winner? Did you agree with the judges decision?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000j459/bbc-young-musician-2020-2-woodwind-final-highlights>

Enjoy your music making!

Mr Kitchen

