# CLARINET COMPANION

A supplemental method for any program.



### JOHN G. RYSZKA

MUSI 5398: ADVANCED STUDIES PRACTICAL APPLICATION PROJECT NO. 2
AMERICAN BAND COLLEGE
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



### About the book

I'm excited to offer this book as a supplemental method to help middle school through high school students perfect their technique on the clarinet. You will see that it offers great review on set up of the instrument, embouchure, and tone production. It also offers great help with fingerings for playing both chromatic and diatonic passages. The fun listening lab provides an opportunity for your students to analyze and emulate professionals. One of the most exciting features of this book is a systematic approach for learning all 12 major scales full range. A metronome pass-off chart enables you and your student to mark levels of achievement and to help set goals. I hope you and your students enjoy working to develop technique and musicianship from this book.

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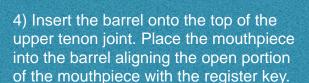
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### **Instrument Assembly**

- 1) Grease the tenon corks as needed. Moisten a reed in your mouth while you assemble your instrument.
- 2) Hold the lower section of the clarinet in your left hand (avoid gripping the metal rods), push and twist the bell onto the lower section.
- 3) Holding the upper section as shown, hold down the "D" key to lift the "bridge key". Use the other hand at the bass of the lower joint (palm

on the pads) to stabilize the clarinet. Lower the upper joint onto the lower joint. Use small gentle twists until the bridge keys are aligned.









- 5) Place the ligature over the mouthpiece with the tightening screw going to the right. Slide the ligature up partway on the mouthpiece and slide the reed down behind the ligature.
- 6) Center the reed on the mouthpiece with only a hairline width of the mouthpiece showing above the reed. Tighten the screws only till snug as over tightening can damage ligature and/or the cane of the reed.

### **Using Good Air Support**

- 1) The clarinet relies on having a steady supported airstream.
  - To achieve proper air support sit tall with good posture.
  - Keep shoulders relaxed and breathe in a few times deeply as if yawning.
  - Practice blowing as if you are blowing out candles on a birthday cake or blowing to hold a piece of paper to the wall.



- Assemble the mouthpiece and reed with only the barrel connected.
- Make an exaggerated facial 'A' sound. Now hold firm corners and mix that with a 'Q' sound (the "oo" shape is most important and should bring firm corners more forward)
- 3) Make sure your teeth are resting on the top of the mouthpiece.
  - 4)The top lip rests on the teeth and forms a seal on the mouthpiece.
  - 5) The bottom lip is placed on the lower teeth and forms a cushion against the reed.
  - 6)\*Check\* Make sure your cheeks are pulled inward, not puffed, and firm but not overly tight. Also make sure your chin is flat/smooth and extended downward (no raisin chin)
  - 7) Take in only half of an inch of reed/mouthpiece into the mouth (teeth on top, lip cushion on bottom).
  - 8)Take in a relaxed deep breath and blow. The resulting sound should be an F#.









# **Troubleshooting Tone Production**

Sounds Like	<u>Problem</u>	Remedy
No Tone, Rushing Air	No pressure against reed. Too much reed in mouth. Stiff reed.	Increase lower lip pressure. Less mouthpiece in mouth. Sand reed.
Squawk, Flat Pitch	Insufficient pressure against reed. Too much reed in mouth. Insufficient intensity in air flow. Soft reed.	Increase lower lip pressure. Less mouthpiece in mouth. Faster air. Clip reed.
Squeaks, High Squeal	Insufficient pressure against reed. Too much reed in mouth. Clarinet angled too far away. Soft reed.	Stop tone; increase pressure. Less mouthpiece in mouth. Stop tone; bring clarinet closer. Clip reed.
Stopped or Intense Air	Stopped: Soft reed. Intense air: Hard reed. Too little reed in mouth. Too much lip pressure.	Clip reed. Sand reed; Check symmetry. More mouthpiece in mouth. Less biting; Check for bunched chin.
Thin, Sharp Pitch	Too little reed in mouth. Tight, closed throat Hard reed.	More mouthpiece in mouth. "Oh" position; Review sigh. Sand reed.

### **Tips and Tricks**

of the clarinet

#### **Articulation Helps**

-if you are having difficulty with clarity, chirping, or are anchor tonging try these exercises from Dr. Adam Ballif of BYU-Idaho to help your articulation.

- 1) **Tip to Tip:** Tip of the Tongue to the Tip of the Reed.
- 2) Lightness + Bounce = Speed
- 3) Slow Motion Training: Train your tongue to touch the reed lightly. The plus signs indicate where to leave your tongue on the reed, making the tone fuzzy.





4) Articulation Exercises. Think "Lee" or "Dee" to keep the back of the tongue high in your mouth. Quarter note = 112-144



"Tongue Push Ups," use throughout the range with scale patterns.



Dr. Adam Ballif ballifa@byui.edu www.adamballif.com **ABC 2014** 

PA:2 Ryszka

### **Tips and Tricks**

of the clarinet

#### **Dealing with throat tones.**

-Throat tones (notes listed below) are notes played in the upper part of the clarinet or "throat". You may notice that when you play the standard fingerings for these notes they are sharp and dull in sound. It is good practice to place the right hand down on these notes because it helps the pitch and the tone quality. The fingerings below are resonant fingerings that help achieve the best possible tones in the throat of the clarinet.



### Method used in fast passages of music.

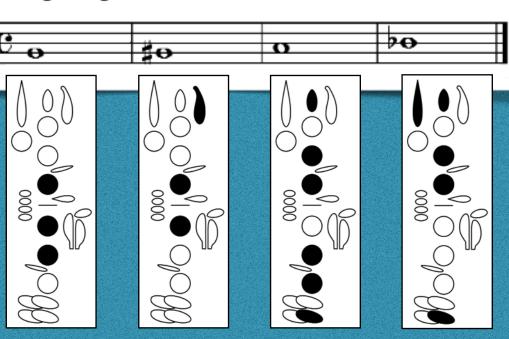
When playing any passage of music remember your **throat tones**. By placing your right hand fingers down on these notes you improve the intonation and make it easier to cross the break as shown here.



#### **Resonant Fingerings**

Use the **resonant fingerings** on lyrical or long held note passages to achieve the best intonation and tone (resonance).

### 1) Resonant Fingerings



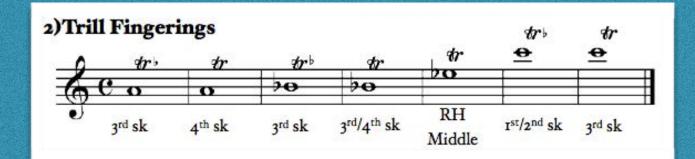
#### PA:2 Ryszka

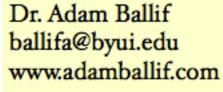
### **Tips and Tricks**

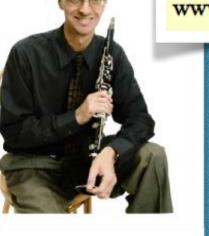
of the clarinet

#### **Common Trill Fingerings**

-Trills are most effectively achieved when it requires only moving one finger. Here are some common examples of alternative trill fingerings that would otherwise be difficult.









A quick note of encouragement from Dr. Adam Ballif.

#### "WHY DO I HAVE TO USE THAT FINGERING?"

Change is always difficult, especially when trying to make new fingerings a habit. Our muscle memory, becomes ingrained from daily practice; both our good and bad habits are hard to change. Invariably when I teach young students about using the above fingerings I get the question, "Why do I have to use this fingering? The fingering I am used to using works fine."

As clarinet players, it is our job in the ensemble to play the very fastest passages. While there are many alternate fingerings that work "fine," there are specific fingerings that allow us to play very fast and even. Intonation and tonal matching is another consideration when choosing fingerings. Just like many things in life, change isn't easy, but it is worth it. **ABC 2014** 

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### **Tips and Tricks**

of the clarinet

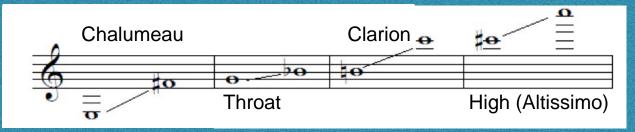
#### **Clarinet Intonation**

-You will find most notes on the clarinet tend to be sharp so our ear and knowing some of the tricks shown in the chart below can be helpful in adjusting pitch.

# Clarinet Intonation Tendencies

Register	Dynamics	Notes	Major Adjust	Minor Adjust 1	Minor Adjust 2
Low E&F- Flat	Soft-Sharp	Throat A&Bb- Sharp	If Flat- Push In Barrel	Tighten Bottom Lip (pitch goes sharp)	EE Tongue
Throat Tones- Sharp	Loud-Flat	High A&B - Sharp	If Sharp - Pull Out Barrel	Loosen Bottom Lip (pitch goes flat)	Air Support
High Notes- Sharp		Low A- Sharp			

### Clarinet Ranges



#### **ABC 2014**

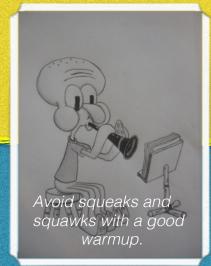
### PA:2 Ryszka

### **Warmup Routine**

A good daily warm up routine will help you become consistent in your playing abilities and help your rehearsal/practice sessions go more smoothly. It will also help you improve tone, technique, and musicality as you play. Make sure to use a metronome and tuner as a reference. Here is a list of elements to consider...

### Things to review during warmup.

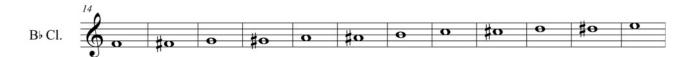
- 1. Embouchure, Posture, Air Support
- 2. Clear Tone for all Dynamics.
- 3. Clear Articulation
- 4. Ease of Playing in all Registers.
- 5. Finger Dexterity



#### **Long Tone Chromatic Warmup**

-long tones are good to work on tone and to build endurance.





\*Play long tones chromatically or using any scale you like. Focus on consistent air flow and tone. This also builds embouchure endurance.

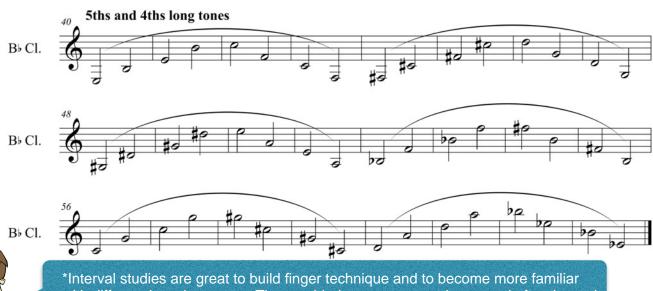
Register Warmup (\* make sure to push down the F/C key when playing D6 and above).



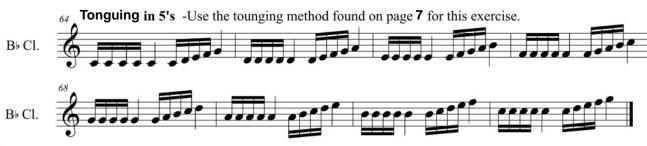


\* This exercise is geared to help with the transitions to all registers. Have a well set embouchure with efficient air flow and by moving through the sequence of notes you will recognize if your set up is working. If the upper notes don't speak it usually means there is too much biting or the reed is too soft.

### **Warmup Routine**



\*Interval studies are great to build finger technique and to become more familiar with different key signatures. The provided warmup example moves in fourths and fifths chromatically from low E to Bb above the staff.





Remember tip of the tongue to the tip of the reed ("tip to tip"). Focus on getting a consistent articulation on each note. Use "tee", "dee" and "lee" as different articulation models. Play in different keys daily.



Now you are ready to work on your finger dexterity on the scale section!

#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

# Rules for basic fingerings for scales and arpeggios

\*taken from Clarinet Fingering-Luck or Logic? by James Gillespie & John C. Scott



# Basic fingerings for scales and arpeggios

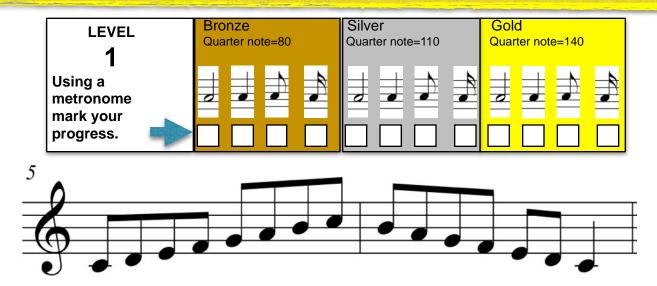
### Primary considerations:

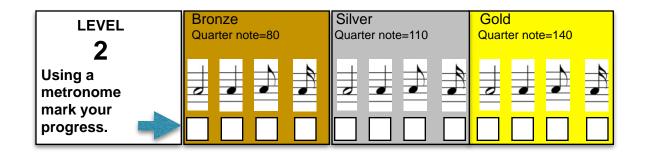
- Whenever possible, continue finger motion in the same hand
- Without sacrificing good intonation, try to move as few fingers as possible in connecting intervals
- Whenever possible, incorporate the "right hand down" technique into all scales and arpeggios
- Remember that the right hand cannot be left down below open g without resulting in poor intonation

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### **C** Major



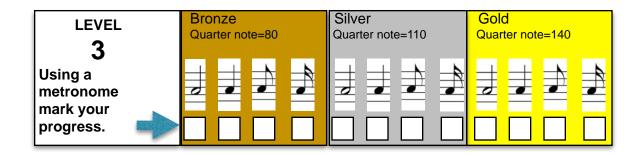




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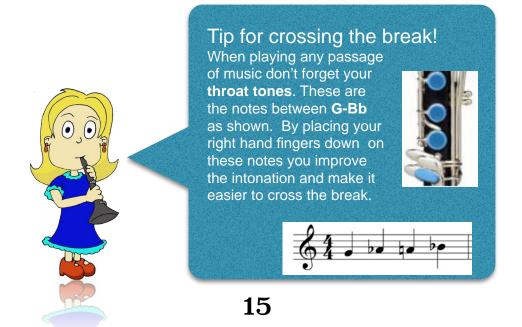
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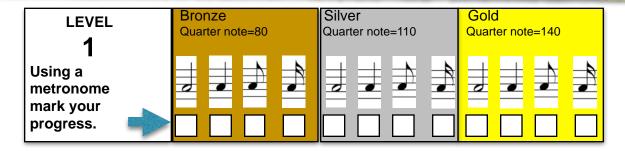


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### F Major

Here are three different levels of mastering a key. The First level covers the basic 8 note scale. The second covers the low register plus up to a fifth above the tonic. The third covers the full range of the clarinet up to double high G. Play each scale in half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. Use your metronome and mark your progress below in the boxes provided.







### Tip for F major fingerings:

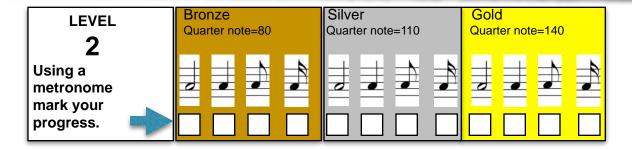
When getting to level two and three in your scale progression use this fingering for Bb above the staff to keep the fingerings progressing in the same hand (left).



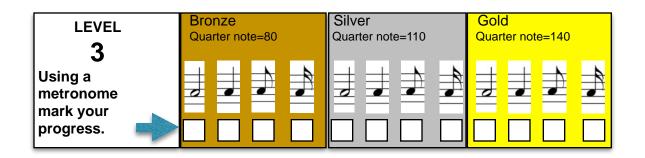
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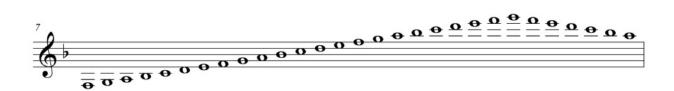
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### F Major









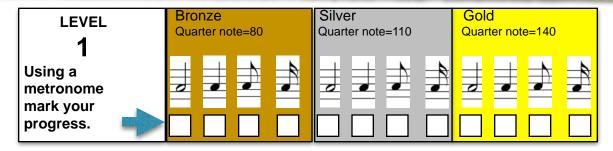


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### **Bb Major**

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Tip for Bb major fingerings:

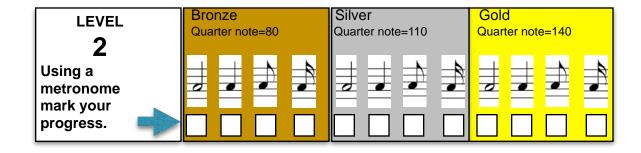
When practicing each level use these fingerings for Bb major to keep the fingerings in the same hand (left).



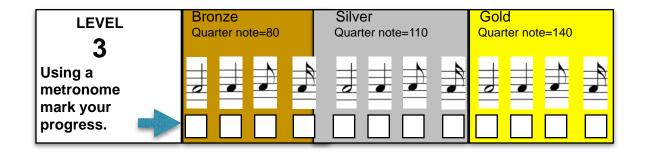
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### **Bb Major**









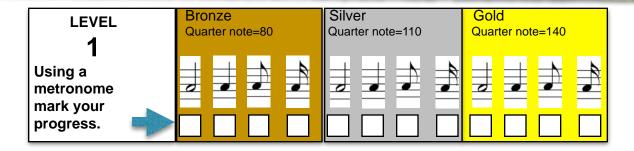


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### **Eb Major**

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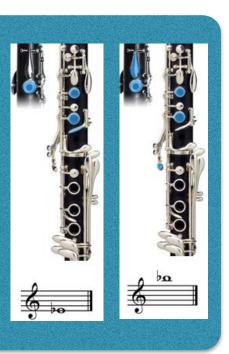






### Tip for Eb major fingerings:

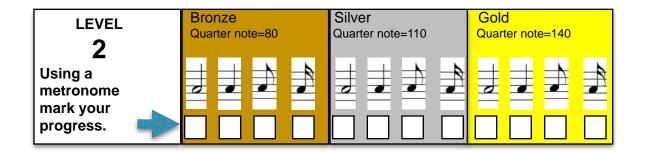
Use the fingering shown for Bb above the staff to help with the transition from the A below it. Use the Eb fingering to keep the fingerings progressing in the same hand (left).



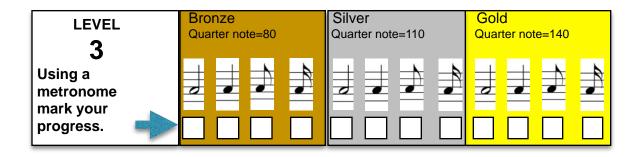
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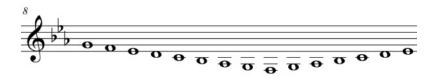
### **Eb Major**









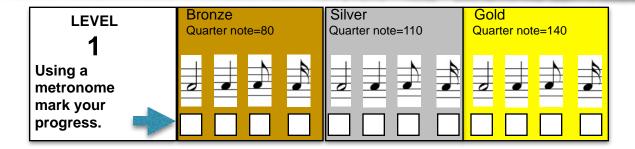


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### **Ab Major**

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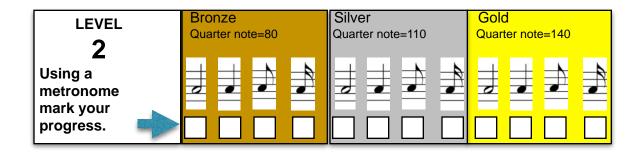


First clarinets date back to the 15th Century in Ancient Greece, Europe, Middle East, and Egypt.

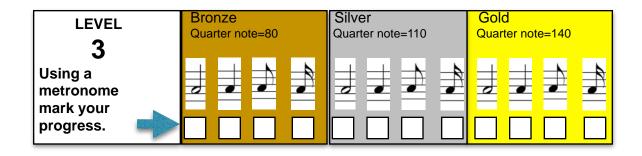
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### **Ab Major**









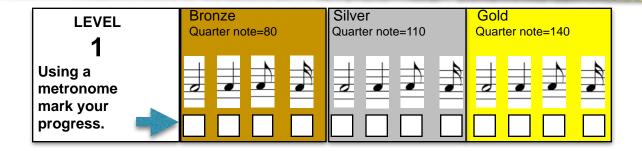


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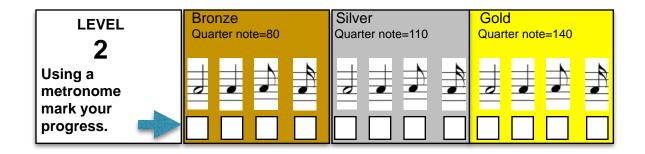
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### **Db Major**

**Enharmonic to C#** 







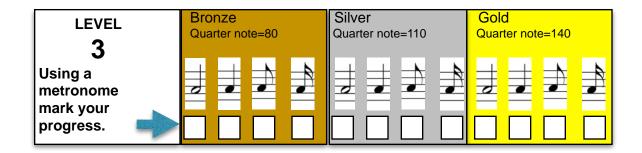


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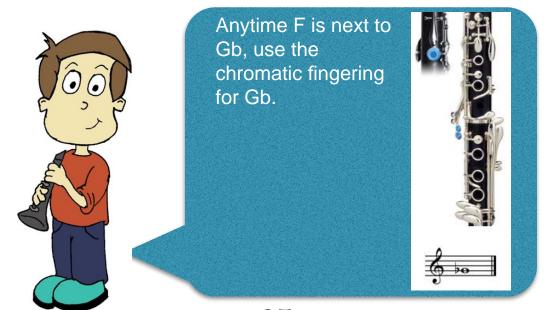
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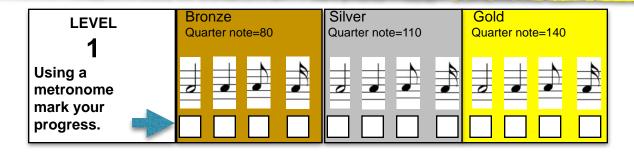




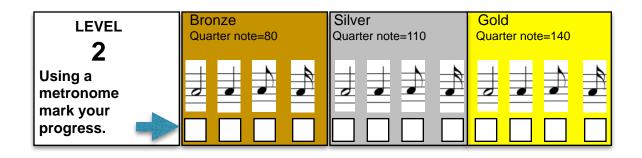
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## C# Major Enharmonic to Db





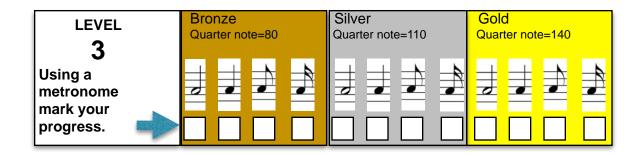




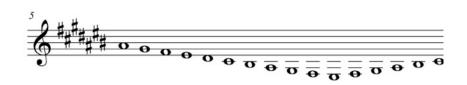
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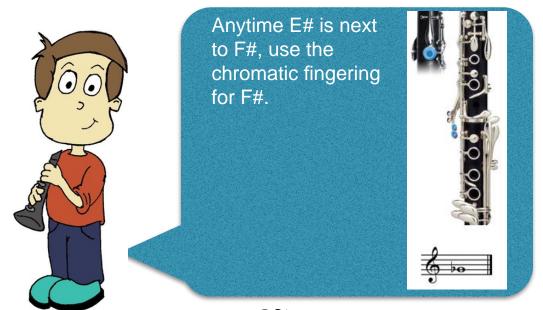
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## C# Major Enharmonic to Db









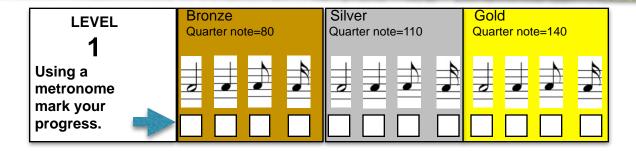
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### **Gb Major**

**Enharmonic to F#** 

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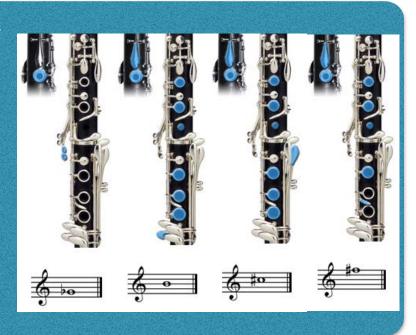






Tip for Gb major fingerings:

When working your scale progression use the fingerings shown for ease of transition to the next note.

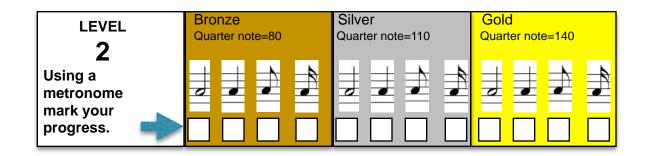


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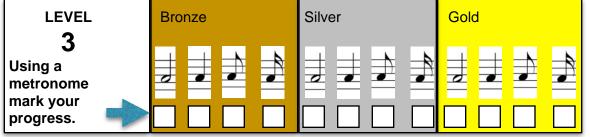
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### **Gb Major**

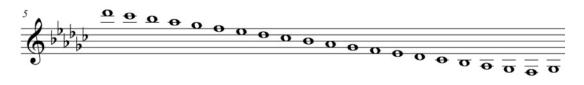
**Enharmonic to F#** 











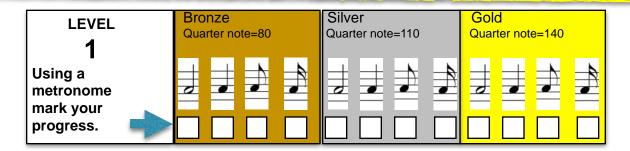
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### F# Major

**Enharmonic to Gb** 

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Tip for F# major fingerings:

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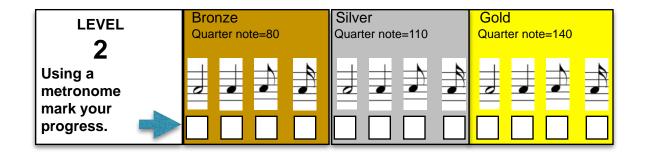


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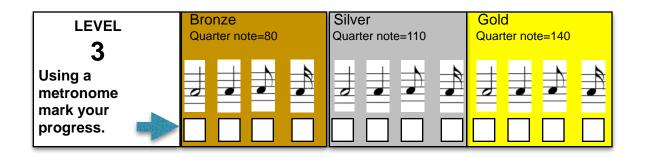
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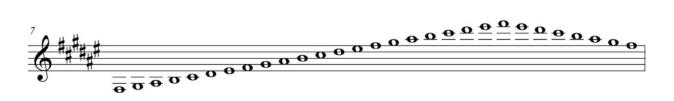
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**Enharmonic to Gb** 







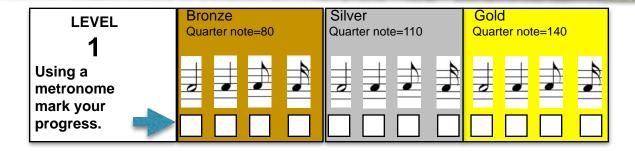




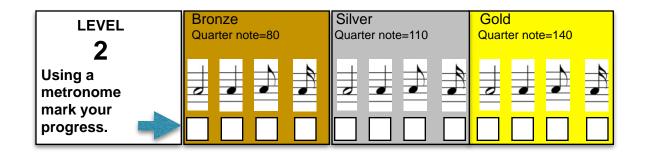
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# Cb Major Enharmonic to B





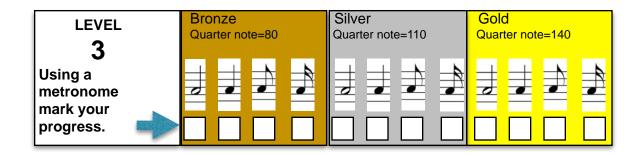




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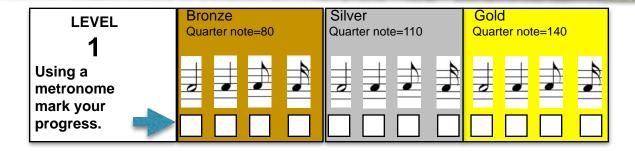




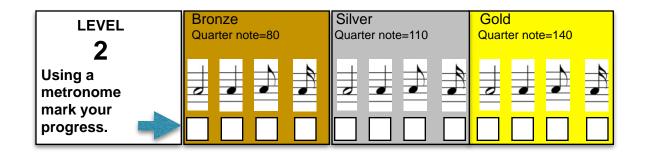
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# B Major Enharmonic to Cb







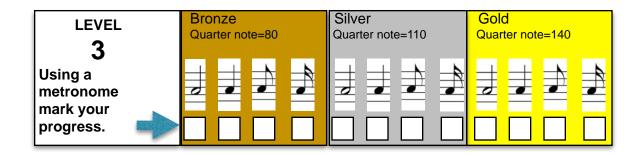


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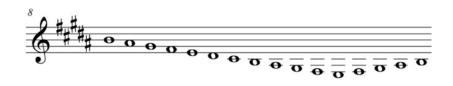
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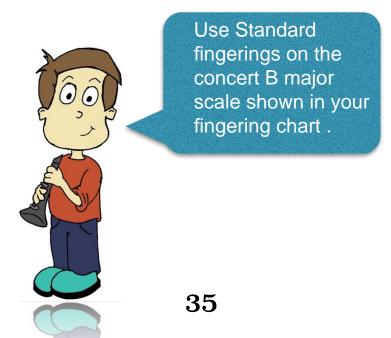
### **B** Major

**Enharmonic to Cb** 







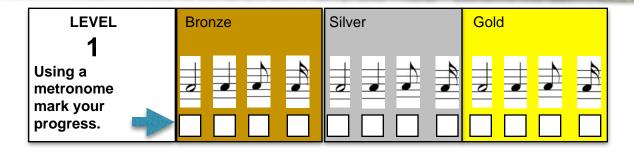


#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

### **E** Major

Here are three different levels of mastering a key. The First level covers the basic 8 note scale. The second covers the low register plus up to a fifth above the tonic. The third covers the full range of the clarinet up to double high G. Play each scale in half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. Use your metronome and mark your progress below in the boxes provided.

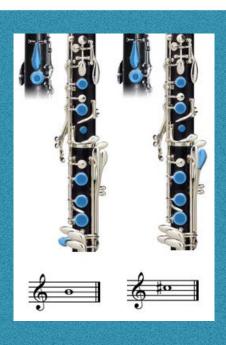






### Tip for E major fingerings:

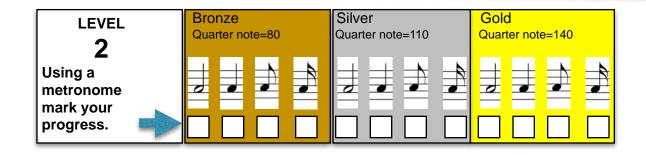
Use these fingerings for your E Major scale. This sequence of keys helps with keeping C# to D# a possible transition otherwise requiring an extra pinky.



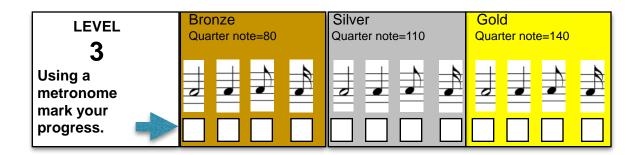
#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

# **E** Major









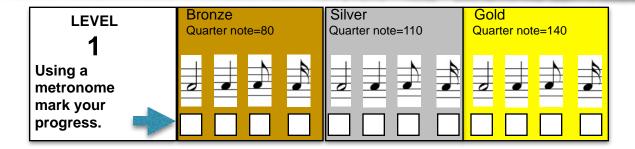


#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

## **A Major**

Here are three different levels of mastering a key. The First level covers the basic 8 note scale. The second covers the low register plus up to a fifth above the tonic. The third covers the full range of the clarinet up to double high G. Play each scale in half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. Use your metronome and mark your progress below in the boxes provided.

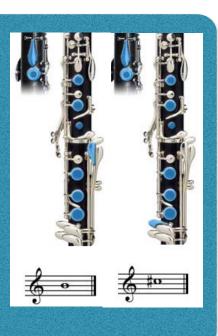






### Tip for A major fingerings:

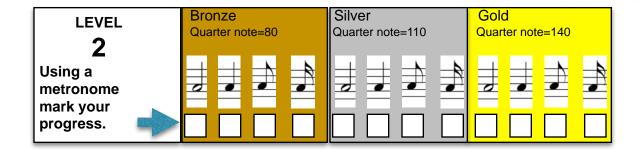
Use these fingerings for your A Major and D Major scales. This sequence of keys helps with keeping C# to D in the same hand.



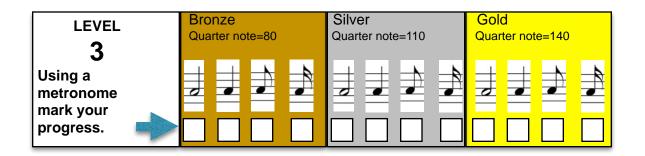
#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

# **A Major**









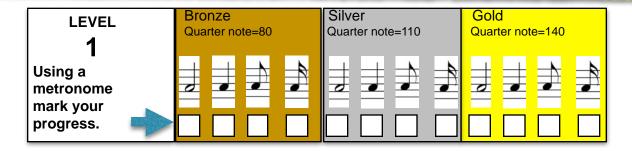


#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

# **D** Major

Here are three different levels of mastering a key. The First level covers the basic 8 note scale. The second covers the low register plus up to a fifth above the tonic. The third covers the full range of the clarinet up to double high G. Play each scale in half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. Use your metronome and mark your progress below in the boxes provided.

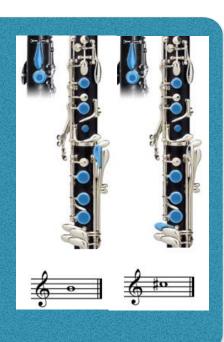






# Tip for D major fingerings:

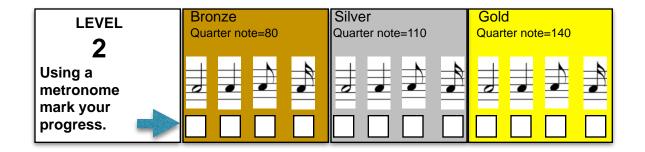
Use these fingerings for your A Major and D Major scales. This sequence of keys helps with keeping C# to D in the same hand.



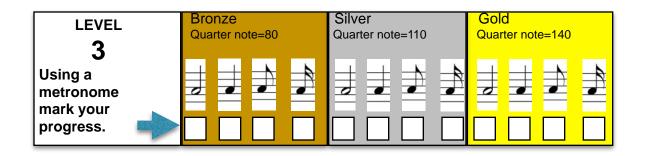
#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

# **D** Major







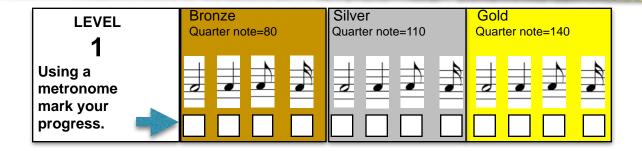




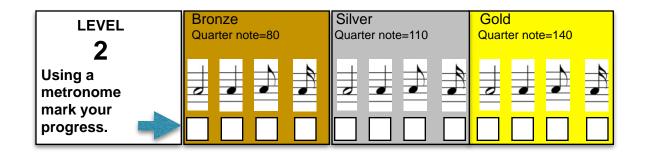
#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your

# **G** Major







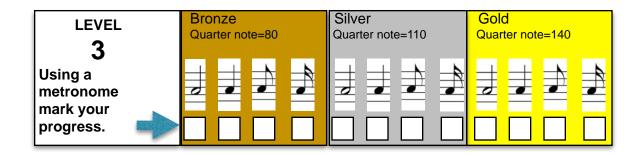


#### **Scale Mastery**

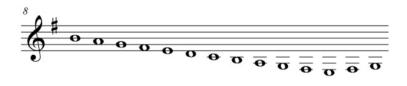
"So you think you know your scales".

## **G** Major

Here are three different levels of mastering a key. The First level covers the basic 8 note scale. The second covers the low register plus up to a fifth above the tonic. The third covers the full range of the clarinet up to double high G. Play each scale in half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. Use your metronome and mark your progress below in the boxes provided.









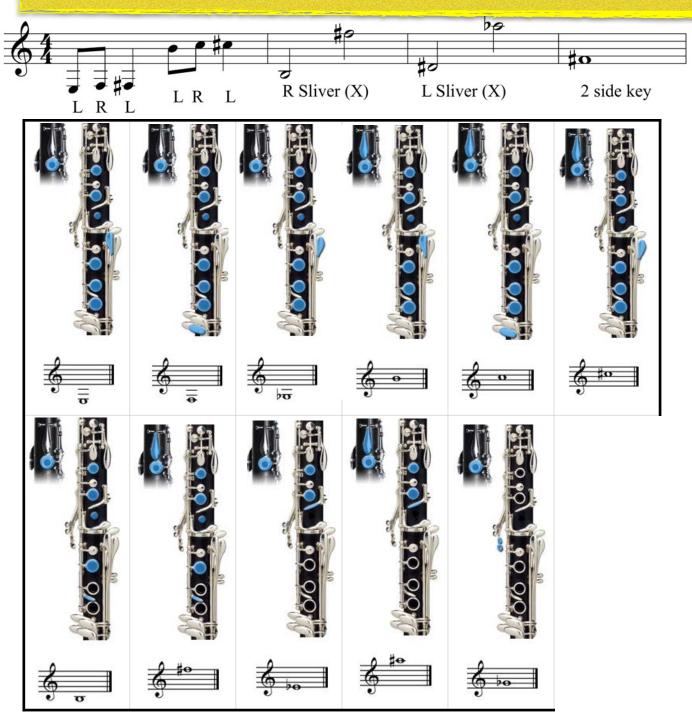
Use Standard fingerings on the concert G major scale shown in your fingering chart.

#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

### **Approaching Chromatics**

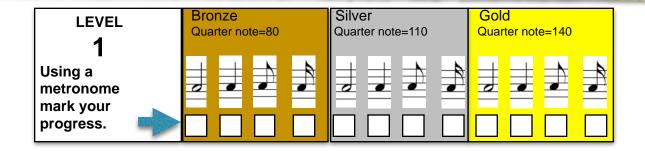
These are exercises to help you work on playing chromatically on the clarinet. The below fingering combinations are to be used on chromatic passages. On the first measure practice the passage while holding down the F/C key in the right hand. On the second and third measure use only the sliver key fingerings. In the last measure the F# is played only with the bottom two side keys shown.



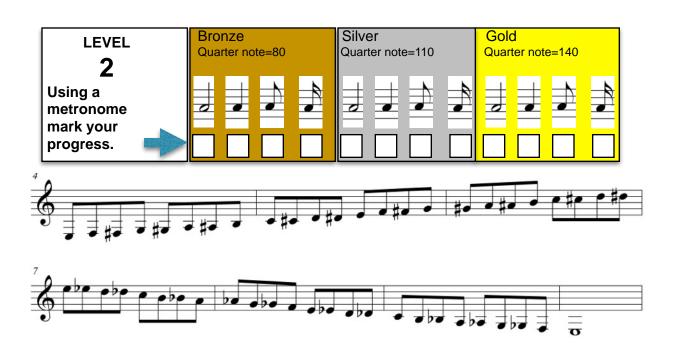
#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

### **Chromatic Scale**



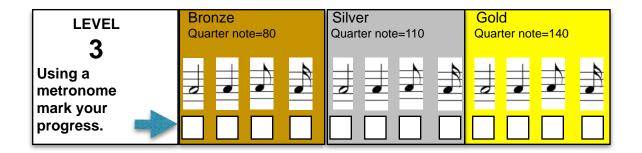




#### **Scale Mastery**

"So you think you know your scales".

### **Chromatic Scale**





### **Tone Lab Part 1**

#### What is Tone or Timbre?

"The source and quality of a particular sound".

# **Word Bank**

Resonant vs Dry Dark vs. Bright Warm vs. Cool Lush vs. Spare Sweet vs. Harsh Muddy vs. Clear

The following lab is to introduce you to tone qualities of various professionals. Listen to each excerpt listed on the following page and in writing describe the sounds you are hearing. You may use your own Adjectives. On **page 49** there is a section of definitions that clarify the tonalities listed above in the **word bank**.

Example #1 Tone Description:
Example #2 Tone Description:
Example #3 Tone Description:
Example #4 Tone Description:
Example #5 Tone Description:
Example #6 Tone Description:
Example #7 Tone Description:
Pick your Favorite #Why (it can't be because of the song, please, tone based)?

### **Tone Lab Part 1** Listening

"Every Musician Needs A Role Model"

Go to the playlist YOU Tube Code with your device-





Playlist web link Mr Ryszka's Clarinet Tone Examples

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkgWNTW



Example #1 **Robert Spring** 

Example #4 **Sabine Meyer** 



Scherzo Tarantelle, Op. 16, written by Polish composer Henri Wieniawski during the Romantic Era (about 1800 to 1850).

Example #2 Richard Stoltzman



Maid with the Flaxen Hair by Claude Debussy a composer during the Impressionist Era (about 1870-1880)



Example #3 Sal Lozano

(lead alto doubling on clarinet) Rhapsody In Blue arranged by Gordon Goodwin and the Big Phat Band during the 20th Century "jazz" (1901-2000).

Concerto in f minor No.1, op.73 written by C.Mv.Weber during the 20th Century Music Era (1901-2000)



Example #5 **Benny** Goodman

**Moonglow** by Will Hudson and Irving Mills and words by Eddie DeLange during the 20th Century music era "jazz" (1901-2000).

Example #6 **Sharon Kam** 



Concerto for Clarinet by Mozart during the Classical Era (About 1730-1820)



Example #7 **Charles Neidich** 

"LISTENING TO PROFESSIONALS CAN HELP YOU DEVELOP A GOOD CONCEPT OF SOUND"



Violin Sonata No. 1, op. 13, 1st. mv. Allegro molto by Gabriel Faure during the late Romantic Era (1800-1900)

### **Tone Lab Part 1**

The following box of definitions was taken from....

Talking About Music - Words - ComposerTools.com

composertools.com/Dictionary/MusicWords.htm

The following words are often used when talking about timbre:

dry - A dry sound or space is one that has no resonance, echo, or reverberation in the sound. Standard instruments will sound dry if they are played in a "dry space", such as outside in a field, in a tent (or some other space where all the walls are covered with fabric), or an "anechoic chamber", like a recording studio.  Similarly, with instruments, dry sounds are those which do not resonate much. Examples include wood block, violin pizzicato, ratchet, snare drum, etc.
bright - Bright sounds are more sharp, piercing and metallic (imagine a metal plate being dropped on the ground) Examples include trumpet, violin, glockenspiel (in fact, most mallet instruments), bells, and oboe.  Most instruments will sound brighter as they play higher and higher pitches. For example, violoncello and French horn can both sound very bright when they play high notes.
cool, icy - Often high-pitched, crystalline, and metallic.
spare - Very few instruments playing simultaneously, dry sounds, lots of silence.
harsh, grating - Abrasive music with lots of dissonance and scratchy ugly sounds.

muddy - when "lush" goes too far it becomes muddy, too many instruments playing legato music at the same time and in the same pitch range.	clear, clean - used when the music can be perceived and understood quickly and when the major lines and important points are clearly highlighted to the ear. Music without extraneous sounds, instruments, and melodies is usually very clean.
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### **Tone Lab Part 2**

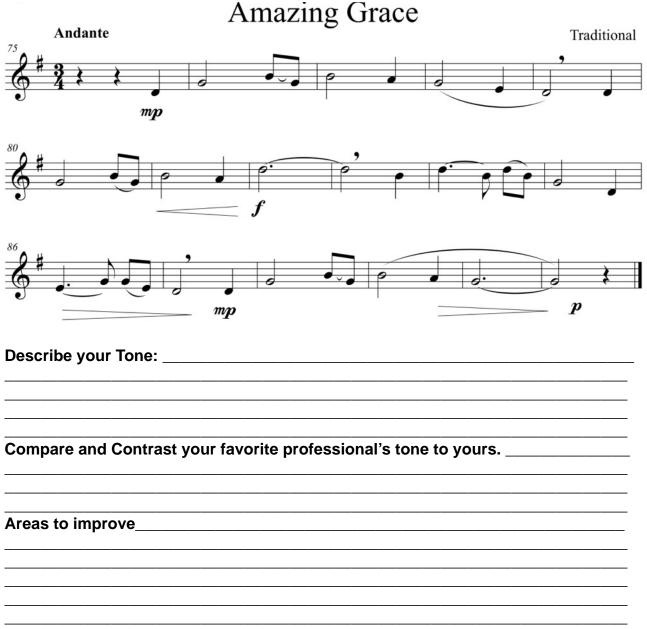
#### What is Tone or Timbre?

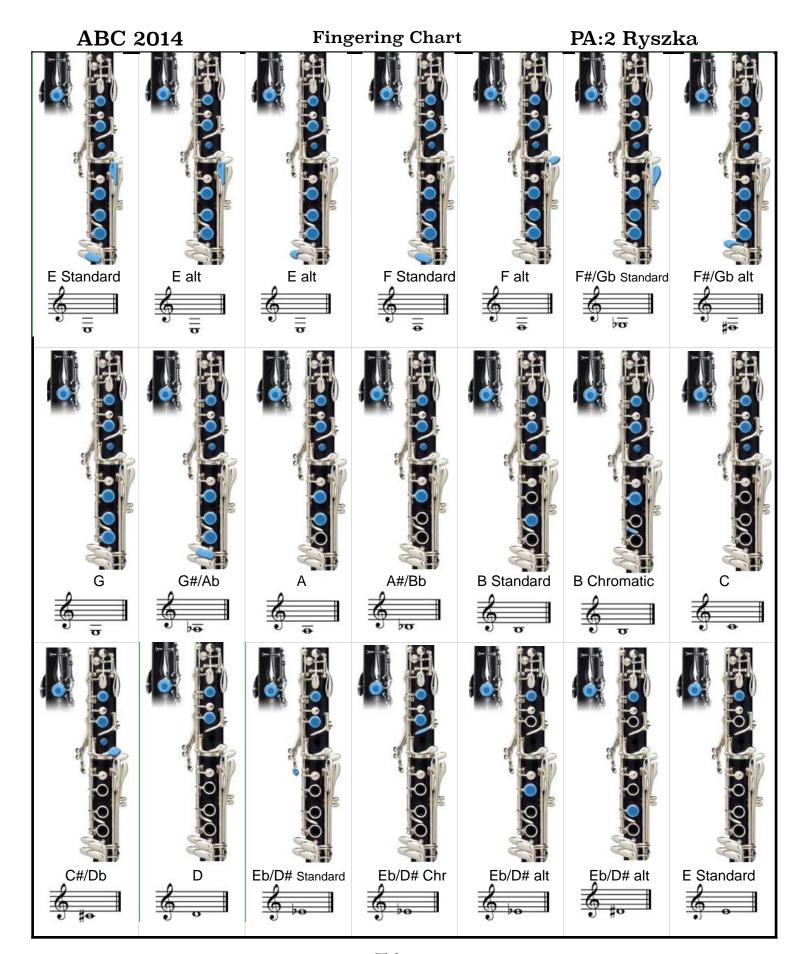
"The source and quality of a particular sound".

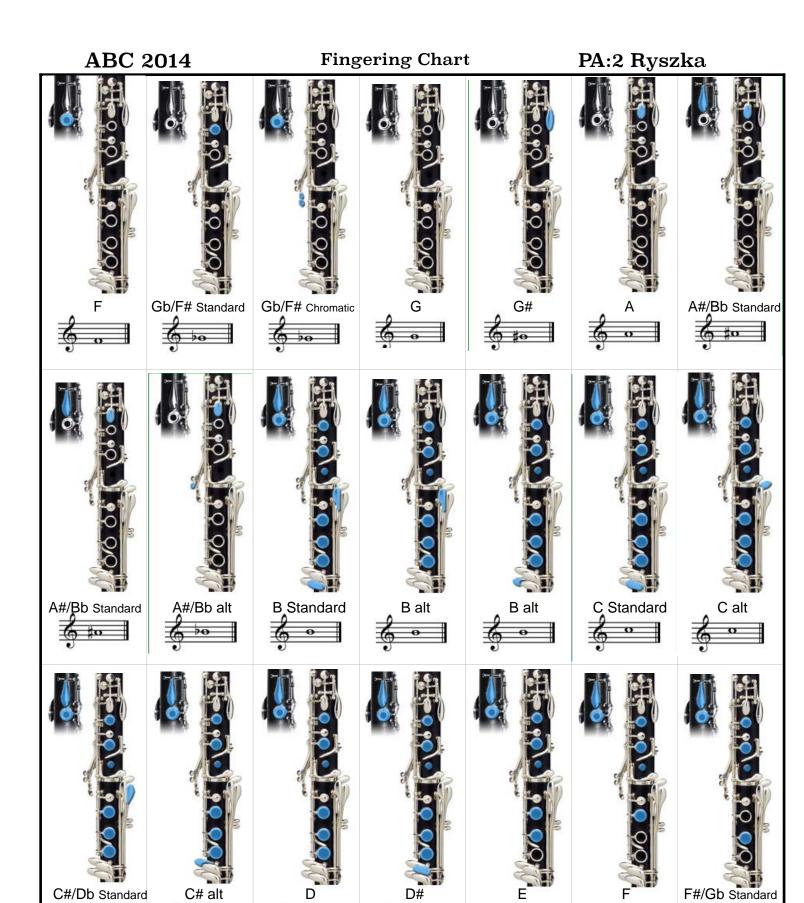
### **Word Bank**

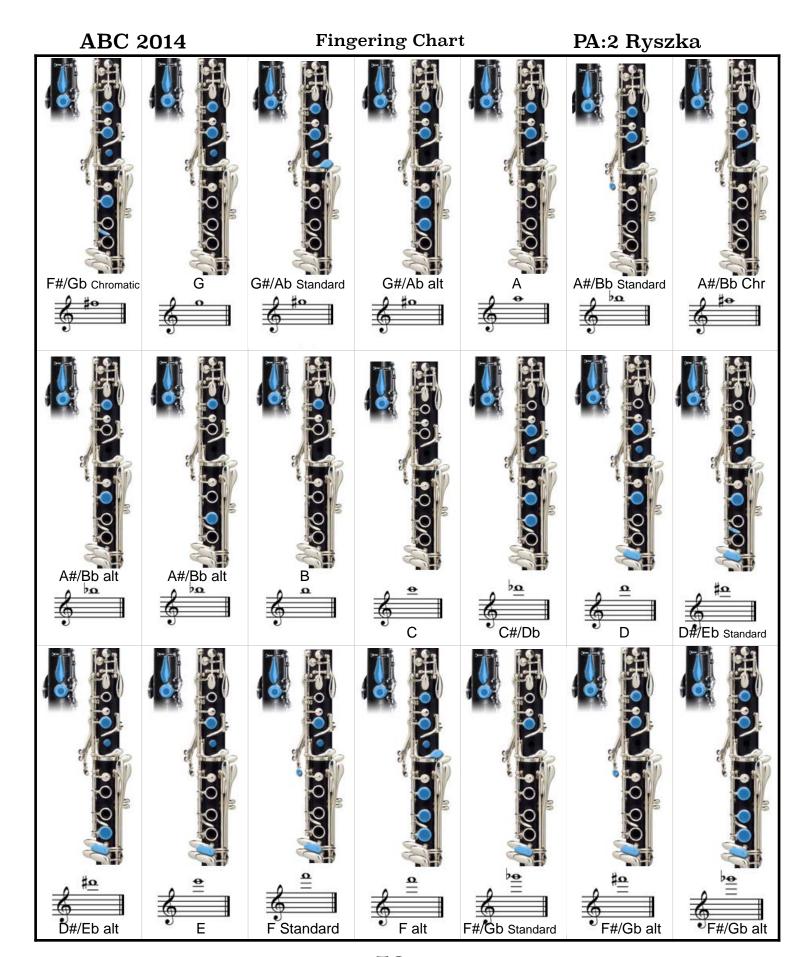
Resonant vs Dry Dark vs. Bright Warm vs. Cool Lush vs. Spare Sweet vs. Harsh Muddy vs. Clear

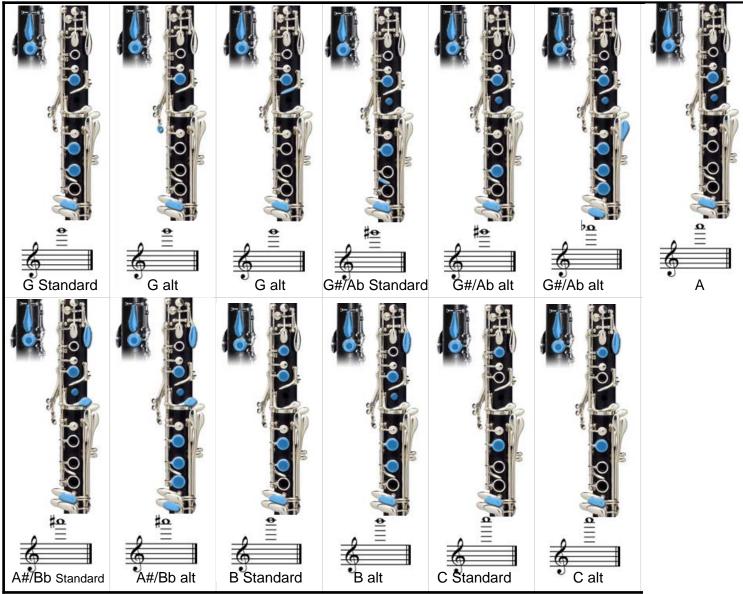
The following lab is to introduce you to tone quality you play with. Work on the excerpt below and record yourself. Use garage band, audacity, or a high quality digital recorder. Listen to and analyze your performance. Use the tone descriptors in Tone Lab 1 to analyze your recording.











#### **Works Cited**

Ballif, Adam, Dr. "ClariNotes Newsletter." ClariNotes. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2014.

"The Clarinet Fingering Trainer." The Clarinet Fingering Trainer. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2014.

"ComposerTools.com - Welcome." ComposerTools.com - Welcome. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2014.

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McKee, Max. "Clarinet." Embou-Sure. Ashland: WIBIC, 2014. N. pag. Print.

Scott, John C., and James Gillespie. "Clarinet Fingering-Luck or Logic?" Clarinet Fingering (n.d.): n. pag. Clarinet Fingering. Web.

Wilson, Fran. "The Cross-Eyed Pianist." The CrossEyed Pianist. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2014.

"Words to Describe Music." Words to Describe Music. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2014.

"Words to Describe Tone Colour." Mackellarmusic. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 July 2014.

### Youtube examples

Example #1 Robert Spring - Scherzo Tarantelle, Op. 16-posted by March Hare https://www.youtube.com/watch?

v=tUEduTI1MMk&list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW&index=2

Example #2 Richard Stoltzman - Maid with the Flaxen Hair posted by mostafal1994 https://www.youtube.com/watch?

v = YEITVTcGbzc&list = PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW&index = 3

Example #3 Sal Lozano (lead alto doubling on clarinet) Rhapsody In Blue posted by BigBandTV https://www.youtube.com/watch?

v=ZNeKuDLK2QY&index=4&list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW

Example #4 Sabine Meyer-Concerto in f minor No.1, op.73 posted by 陳柏穎 https://www.youtube.com/watch?

v=YEITVTcGbzc&list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW&index=3

Example #5 Benny Goodman- Moonglow posted by Bob Hardy https://www.youtube.com/watch?

v=jEmK9qFB1Y0&index=6&list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW

Example #6-Sharon Kam- Clarinet Concerto posted by obiwan88 https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=o\_gm0NCabPs&index=7&list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW

Example #7 Charles Neidich-Violin Sonata No. 1, op. 13, 1st. mv posted by ClarinoShalumo https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=6PA6T2pyx5c&list=PLFQJSHQUm0ND3SPwW0WsdMPJCKrkqWNTW&index=7

#### **Artist Photos**

Sabine Meyer

http://www.sabine-meyer.com/index.php/impressions.html

Sal Lozano

http://www.lastudiomusicians.info/sallozano.htm

Richard Stoltzman

http://www.bach-cantatas.com/Bio/Stoltzman-Richard-2.htm

Robert Spring

https://asunews.asu.edu/node/5667

Benny Goodman

http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/benny-goodmans-clarinet-60074919/

Sharon Kam

http://www.sharonkam.com/images/stories/hotgallery/download/2.jpg

**Charles Neidich** 

http://www.revisemysite.com/images/07-06-2014-FR-gateorch-neidichc.jpg

### **Clarinet Companion Cartoons**

Robert Ryszka Gerri Ryszka

