

The ABCs of the Clarinet Ts: Tone, Technique and Tongue

Patricia P. Card, DMA
Professor of Clarinet
Sam Houston State University

Farah Benam, sophomore, Houston
Weston Quintana, sophomore, Katy

Andres Guerra, senior, Pflugerville
Edith Saucedo, junior, Houston

- I. Tone
 - A. Embouchure
 - 1. Lower lip placement
 - 2. Jaw pressure
 - B. Tongue position
 - 1. Register slurs
 - 2. Pitch and the relationship to tone quality
 - C. Air speed

Exercises for improvement: long tones

The image shows three staves of musical notation for long tone exercises on a clarinet in Bb. The first staff is labeled 'n Bb' and contains four measures of music, each starting with a half note on the staff and followed by a slur over a quarter note. The second staff is labeled '8' and contains four measures of music, each starting with a half note on the staff and followed by a slur over a quarter note. The third staff is labeled '16' and contains three measures of music, each starting with a half note on the staff and followed by a slur over a quarter note. The notation is in 4/4 time and uses a treble clef.

SHSU Clarinet Quartet
Showcase Performance
Friday, February 12 12:30 pm

Band excerpt: First Suite in E-Flat, Intermezzo (Holst)

C *L'istesso tempo.*
Solo. dolce.
p

D

Results: improved pitch and tone quality, better projection, tonal consistency across registers

- II. Technique
 - A. Hand position
 - 1. Left hand index finger and thumb
 - 2. Right hand index finger and thumb
 - 3. General shape
 - B. Going over the break
 - 1. Appropriate exercises
 - 2. Right hand preparation

Exercises for improvement: right hand preparation in scales

- C. Altissimo production
 - 1. Half-hole
 - 2. Rolling index finger

Exercises for improvement: high register slurs

20

Band excerpt: *Festive Overture* (Shostakovich/Hunsberger)

1 Solo
mp

5 Tutti
mf

6

Results: smoother and faster technique, quicker altissimo production

- III. Tongue
 - A. Tongue position
 - 1. Arch shape
 - 2. Movement
 - B. DA vs. TA
 - C. Repeated note exercises
 - D. Moving notes exercises

SHSU Summer Music Conservatory!

June 19 - 23

<http://shsusummerconservatory.weebly.com/about.html>

Exercises for improvement: daily tonguing exercises

n Bb

3

6

9

12

16

Band excerpt: March from *Symphonic Metamorphosis* (Hindemith/Wilson)

3

3

Results: less tongue “noise” or undertones, lighter articulation in all registers, pitch stability