



# ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



## Clarinet Lesson 5

### Weekly Focus: Reading and Playing Eighth Notes

#### Explanation of Lesson Focus:

For this lesson we will focus on reading and playing eighth notes. To get us ready we first need to warm-up our body and our breathing using the exercise below.

#### Warm Up:

We will start off by warming up our sound by playing B, C, D, E, F, G, and A using whole notes. That means you will hold each note for 4 beats before switching to the next note. Try to start each note with your tongue and take a big breath for your best sound. Next, try playing each of these notes for the value of a half note (which means only holding for two beats before moving on). And finally, play them each for the value of a quarter note (which means holding for only 1 beat before moving on).

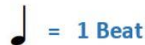
Let's continue warming-up our fingers on B, C, D, E, F, G, and A on the following exercise, (#43).





*Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Clarinet. Neil Kjos Music Company. Page 12.*

#### Musical Exercises to Practice Eighth Notes:

To understand eighth notes it is good to review quarter note counting. Remember that one quarter note gets one beat:



If you divide a quarter note you get two eighth notes. 

In other words, two eighth notes equals one quarter note or one beat. 

Let's practice reading eighth notes with exercise #47 *Eighth Note Explorer* using the following steps:

- First, speak the rhythm using "ta ta ta ti-ti" (see below).
- Next, count the rhythm using numbers. Remember that a quarter note and two eighth notes both equal 1 beat. When counting two eighth notes we add an "and" or "+" on the second eighth note to signify that the beat is now complete. See the example below:



- Then we will play through the piece counting the rhythm in our head while practicing our articulation by making sure to tongue each note on the reed.

**#47 EIGHTH NOTE EXPLORER**  
Tongue each note on the reed

Counting: ta ta ta ti - ti | ta ta ta ti - ti | ta ta ta ti - ti | ta ta ta ti - ti

1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 +

*Standard of Excellence, Book 1 Flute, by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos. Page 13.*

We'll continue our practice of reading eighth notes in #48 *Go Tell Bill*. First speak the rhythm using numbers, then play the piece. You will notice that this melody uses the same quarter/eighth note rhythms we just practiced in #47 *Eighth Note Explorer* above. Be sure to pay attention to the breath marks “.” and also the fermata at the end of the piece which asks you to hold the final note a little longer than two beats.

### #48 Go Tell Bill

Tongue each note on the reed

ta ta ta ti-ti | ta ta ta ti-ti | ta ta ta ti-ti | ta ta ta ti-ti

1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 +

<sup>5</sup>  
ta ta ta ti-ti | ta ta ta ti-ti | ta ta ta ti-ti | ta ta ta

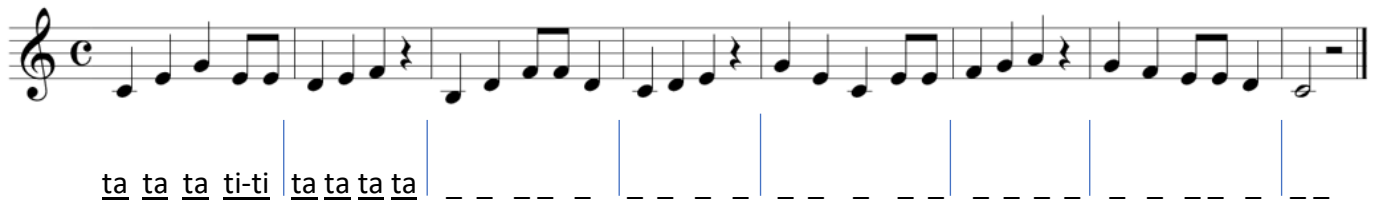
1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4 + | 1 2 3 4

*Standard of Excellence, Book 1 Clarinet, by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos. Page 13.*

In our closing piece, #49 *Go For Excellence*, it will be your turn to write in the rhythm on the lines below the notes using “ta” and “ti-ti”. Use the two pieces above as a guide. The first two measures have been done for you. Now speak through your rhythm. Are the “ta” and “ti-ti” in the correct place? Next, play through the piece remembering to tongue each note on the reed.

### #49 Go For Excellence

Tongue each note on the reed



The image shows a musical staff in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, there are two lines of rhythm notation. The first line contains the syllables 'ta ta ta ti-ti ta ta ta ta' aligned with the first two measures of the music. The second line consists of a series of dashed lines with vertical bars indicating the start of each measure, intended for the student to write their own rhythm.

*Standard of Excellence, Book 1 Clarinet, by Bruce Pearson, c. 2006 Neil A. Kjos. Page 13.*

## MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS

For Clarinet Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV>

*Clarinet lesson developed by Alex Dugdale at Green Lake, Wedgwood, Madrona, West Seattle, Sanislo, BF Day, and Queen Anne*