



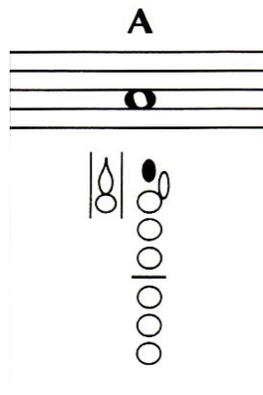
ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



Clarinet

Weekly Focus: The A Note

So far, we have learned C, D, E, F, and G on the clarinet. In the musical alphabet we stop at G and then start over which means the next note after G is A. The note A that we are learning has a higher pitch than G and is played by pressing down the top-most front key that is shaped like a silver tear drop. You press this key down with the side of your first finger so that you don't have to move your first finger very far from the top hole where it rests. This is what the fingering chart for this note looks like:



Warm Up:

Start off by playing C, D, E, F, and G in a row 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, you can try playing each of these notes for the value of a half note (which means only holding for two beats before moving on) and afterwards play them each for the value of a quarter note (which means holding for only 1 beat before moving on).

Next try our warm-up song, *One Step at a Time* (#25).

A musical score for the piece '25 ONE STEP AT A TIME'. It is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of a sequence of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note C5. There are rests for the first two beats of each measure. Below the staff, there is a small instruction: 'Write in the counting and clap the rhythm before you play.'

25 ONE STEP AT A TIME

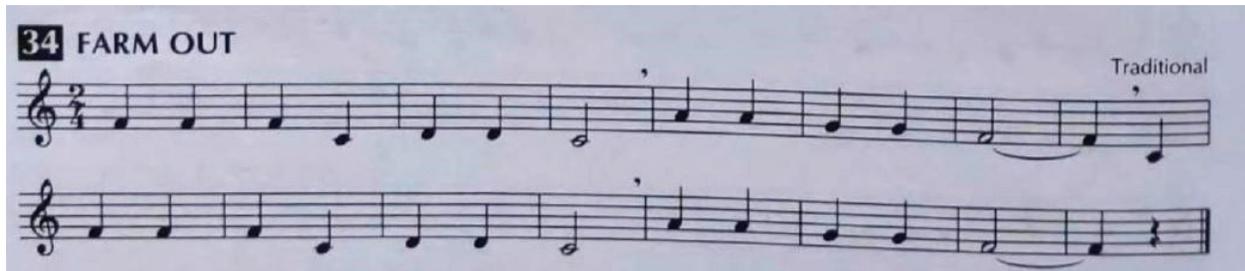
Write in the counting and clap the rhythm before you play.

Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Clarinet. Neil Kjos Music Company. Page 9.

Musical excerpts to Practice A:

Now try playing an A for a whole note, which means 4 beats. Make sure that it sounds higher than the G you played in your warm-up. Next try playing 4 quarter notes (one beat for each quarter note) on the A using your tongue to start each note.

And now we are going to try putting A into a song! Let's play #34 *Farm Out* (see below). Can you find the A notes in the song? Remember to check your posture and your hand position before starting. Now take a deep breath and play #34 *Farm Out*.



The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "34 FARM OUT". The score is written on two staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The music consists of a sequence of quarter notes, with a final measure containing a whole note. The word "Traditional" is written in the upper right corner of the score area.

Standard of Excellence, Book 1 for Clarinet. Neil Kjos Music Company. Page 10.

MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS

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

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