

MUSIC AND THE BASSOON

Unit 32

There are 3 forms of the A Minor scale. Memorize the notes in each scale pattern:

1a. A Natural Minor

♩ = 96 Jensen

Musical notation for the A Natural Minor scale in bass clef, common time. The scale is written in two lines. The first line shows the ascending scale: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The second line shows the descending scale: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

1b. A Melodic Minor

♩ = 120 Jensen

Musical notation for the A Melodic Minor scale in bass clef, 6/8 time. The scale is written in two lines. The first line shows the ascending scale: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The second line shows the descending scale: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

1c. A Harmonic Minor

Jensen

Musical notation for the A Harmonic Minor scale in bass clef, 3/4 time. The scale is written in two lines. The first line shows the ascending scale: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The second line shows the descending scale: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2.

Listen for a crisp, clean tone on each note. If there is a barking or cracking noise, you need to adjust the timing on your flicking, and/or the speed of your airstream, and/or the shape of your embouchure. Experiment!

PRACTICE TIP: It is helpful to practice staccato lines by playing them legato. This helps you feel a connected musical line and the continuous movement of your airstream (both of which should be present no matter how short the articulation).

2. Short and Sweet

Jensen

3. Broad Tone

Jensen

Prior to playing this etude, practice playing F2 to G2 slowly to establish a smooth connection. If the notes do not connect, or if the G squeaks, make sure your fingers are moving simultaneously, check the size of your half hole, and make sure your air stream flows purposefully between the two notes.

4. Etude

Allegro non tanto

Julius Weissenborn

5. Simple Gifts

Shaker Tune

Musical score for 'Simple Gifts' in bass clef, key of D major, common time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), then changes to a bass clef. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes with various rests and phrasing.

Bourée – A quick 17th Century Dance in duple meter, usually with a pick-up note.

6. Bourée

18th Century England

Musical score for 'Bourée' in bass clef, key of B-flat major, common time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb), then changes to a bass clef. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes with various rests and phrasing.

Learn both parts to this duet. When F# follows Bb (as in the bottom part in measure 6, and three before the end) use the front F# fingering with your right pinkie. Using the thumb F# would cause a blip between the notes as your thumb jumped from the Bb to the F# key.

7. Duet

Joseph Kuffner

The musical score is written for two parts: Student and Teacher, both in bass clef and 2/4 time. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The score consists of four systems of two staves each. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). Articulations include slurs, accents, and breath marks. The Student part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, while the Teacher part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and accents. The score concludes with a double bar line.