

MUSIC AND THE BASSOON

Unit 40

Drop your jaw and loosen your bottom lip for the lower notes. As you ascend to F3, your bottom lip should become more firm. Whereas the low notes require an “aw” shape in your mouth, the higher notes require closer to an “ee” shape. Feel like you are blowing fast air through the F3.

1. F Major Arpeggio

♩ = 100-112 Jensen



2a. F# Natural Minor

Jensen




The small notes before the half notes below are called grace notes. Grace notes are written in small print because their time value is not counted in the rhythm of the bar. Their value is instead taken from either the previous note (most commonly), or the following note. When the grace note has a slash through it, as in the melodic minor scale below, the rhythm is taken from the previous note so that the principal note (the note after the grace note) occurs on the beat as written. This grace note is therefore a quick note before the beat. Grace notes are called ornaments because they are not part of the essential structure of the melody.

2b. F# Melodic Minor

Jensen



In music written before 1800, such as the music of Mozart, Devienne, or Haydn, some grace notes take their value from the note following the grace note. Such grace notes are written without slashes through them, as in the harmonic minor scale below. This grace note takes half the value of the principal note, and occurs on the beat. In the scale below, the grace note and the principal note will each receive the value of a quarter note.

Written:  Performed: 

If the principal note's written value is an uneven number of beats, for instance a dotted half note in 4/4, the grace note receives two-thirds of the value.

Written:  Performed: 

2c. F# Harmonic Minor

Jensen



3. Chromatic Scale Etude

Jensen



4. German Dance

Ludwig van Beethoven

Allegretto
mf

f **Fine**

Trio
p

mf

D.C. al Fine

5. Ah! How Pleasant 'Tis to Love

Henry Purcell

mp

Very often, bassoon music will switch between the bass clef and the tenor clef right in the middle of a piece, or even in the middle of a phrase. Be ready for the tenor clef in the fourth repeated phrase below.

Pieces can also change meter, or time signature, as in this one by Susato. When the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4, keep the quarter note at the same tempo, but be ready to create strong beats every three beats rather than every two.

6. Alemande and Reprise

Tielman Susato

The musical score for 'Alemande and Reprise' by Tielman Susato is presented in six staves. The first two staves are in bass clef, 4/4 time. The third staff is in bass clef, 4/4 time. The fourth staff is in tenor clef, 3/4 time. The fifth and sixth staves are in tenor clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *p*.

7. Play **Row, Row, Row Your Boat** by ear in the key of Bb, starting on Bb2. If you need to review the melody, listen to the sound clip in Unit 28. The sound clip, however, is in a different key (it uses different notes).

The grace notes below should be performed as quarter notes, on the beat, subtracting from the rhythm of the principal note (the note that follows the grace note) because the grace notes do not have slashes through them, and because the music was likely written prior to 1800.

8. Romance de Richard

François Devienne

Student

Teacher