

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

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



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

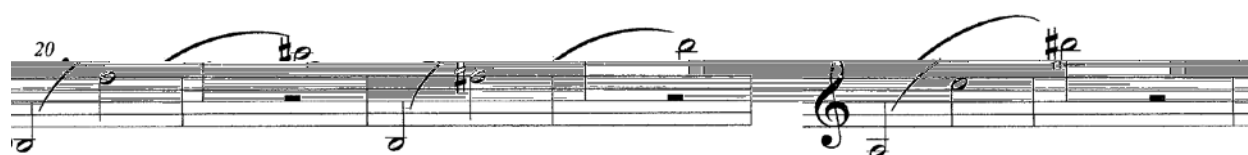
- II. Technique
 - A. Hand position
 - 1. Left hand index finger and thumb
 - 2. Right hand index finger and thumb
 - 3. General shape
 - B. Going over the break
 - 1. Appropriate exercises
 - 2. Right hand preparation

Exercises for improvement: right hand preparation in scales



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

Exercises for improvement: high register slurs



Band excerpt: *Festive Overture*

Exercises for improvement: daily tonguing exercises

The image displays three staves of musical notation for daily tonguing exercises. The first staff is marked with a '0' and contains a sequence of notes with a 'p' dynamic marking. The second staff is marked with a '3' and shows a triplet of notes. The third staff is marked with a '6' and contains a sequence of notes with a 'p' dynamic marking. The notation includes various note values and rests, designed for articulation practice.

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

The image shows a band excerpt from the March from *Symphonic Metamorphoses* by Hindemith/Wilson. It features a single staff of music with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notation includes a triplet of notes marked with a '3' and a 'p' dynamic marking. The excerpt consists of a series of notes with stems pointing upwards, typical of a marching band style.

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