



Ensemble Audition Music (Clarinet) Fall 2025

Selections from:

Weber – Concertino, op. 26 (finale)

Rose – Etude No. 31

Bruch – Acht Stücke, op. 83 no. 5 (Rümanische melodie)

Sullivan – Pineapple Poll (No. 1: Opening Number)

Hoover – A Set for Clarinet (Mvt. 3: Dance)

Bass Clarinet (optional)

Weber – Concertino, op. 26 (finale)

Rose – Etude No. 31

Piazzolla – Tango Etude No. 4

Shostakovich – Violin Concerto, mvt. 2 (Scherzo: Allegro non troppo)

Suggestions:

Target tempi are provided for each excerpt, but they are only targets. Do not attempt to play these excerpts at a speed that your fingers/tongue/brain are not prepared to play at!

Some of these excerpts are not explicit about phrasing and dynamics. The lack of expression markings does not mean that you should play without expression.

Remember the three most important things about ensemble auditions:

- 1) Rhythm
- 2) Rhythm
- 3) Rhythm

But don't forget to consider additional aspects of your playing: things like tone, technique, articulation, phrasing, etc.

The bass clarinet excerpts are provided for those who are interested in demonstrating their abilities for consideration in ensemble placement. Playing the excerpts does not guarantee a bass clarinet placement. Likewise, not playing the excerpts does not mean that you won't play bass clarinet.

Weber – Concertino, op. 26

Weber's indication is "Allegro," which is less than specific. I suggest something in the range of dotted-quarter=80, but you may go faster or slower, depending on your abilities and musical sensibilities. Strive for a synthesis of expressive, musical playing and exciting, brilliant technique! Plan to count the rests, both the full measures, and the two-measure rest.

con passione *cresc.*

f *decresc.* *p*

p *mf*

f *2* *ff con fuoco*

mf

mf

mf *12* *f* *12*

ff *12*

Bruch – Acht Stücke, op. 83 no. 5 (Rümanische melodie)

Although it's marked as *Andante*, our target tempo is right around quarter-note=60.

This has potential to be some of the most expressive playing in your audition.

Andante

A **B** **C**

mf *espressivo*

f

p *p* *cresc.*

f

* There is one measure "missing" from this part in order to facilitate less silence in the audition process.

Rose – Etude No. 30

Target tempo essentially as marked; quarter = 72 (or eighth = 144). This etude does not need to be played fast in order to sparkle.

It is "safe" (and perhaps wise?) to think of this excerpt as "The Articulation Excerpt."

Keep in mind that the indicated *mf* dynamic is essentially a "neutral" in this context. You should consider it an invitation (requirement?) to phrase beyond the confines of the indicated dynamic instructions.

Allegretto ♩ = 72+

mf sempre staccato e scintillante!

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' with a quarter note equal to 72+ beats. The dynamic is mezzo-forte (mf) and the articulation is staccato and sparkling (sempre staccato e scintillante!). The music is characterized by rapid, staccato eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff has a fermata over the final note. The third staff has a fermata over the final note. The fourth staff has a fermata over the final note. The fifth staff has a fermata over the final note.

Sullivan – Pineapple Poll (No. 1: Opening Number)

Target tempo is as marked, but play with rhythmic accuracy, evenness and energy.
Consider rhythm, phrasing and pitch as you cross back and forth over the break.
This excerpt is from the very beginning of the movement (and the suite as a whole!)

Allegro vivace ♩ = 126-144

4

f

1

p *sf* *sf* *f*

2

ff

Hoover – A Set for Clarinet (Mvt. 3: Dance)

Target tempo (at least the one I like) is around quarter note = 120. As you prepare this excerpt, consider how to convey the rhythmic and expressive energy through variations of articulation and dynamics.

Vite

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a **f** dynamic and a *p* dynamic. The second staff includes a *cresc.* marking. The third staff features a **f** dynamic and a *p* dynamic. The fourth staff ends with a **f** dynamic. The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages, often beamed together, and includes various articulations such as slurs, accents, and breath marks. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Bass Clarinet Excerpts

Weber – Concertino, op. 26 (finale)

Rose – Etude No. 31

(use the excerpts earlier in this packet)

Piazzolla – Tango Etude No. 4

Target tempo is likely in the vicinity of quarter-note=52-54, though I can imagine this being faster? Certainly there's flexibility within this excerpt.

Regarding rhythm: there *could* be a fair amount of rubato in your phrases. When navigating the faster flourishes, be aware that grace and beauty of gesture should win out over speed/rhythm.

The breath marks should NOT be taken literally (you needn't breathe every time, and please don't hyperventilate!), but should be used as an indication of separation or break.

There are many recordings of this on a variety of instruments. If you need specific recommendations, let me know, but those of you who are interested will probably be fairly resourceful? This excerpt comes from the recapitulation of the etude, so if you start listening to recordings, you'll need to go about 2/3 of the way in. There are some octave transpositions that felt appropriate for our audition purposes as well.

Lento - meditativo

3

pp

7

mf

f

rall. poco a poco - - -

mf

Più lento

p

ten.

pp *morendo* 5

Shostakovich – Violin Concerto, mvt. 2 (Scherzo: Allegro non troppo)

Target tempo is as marked, in the vicinity of dotted quarter note = 108

Yep, that's bass clef. It is still in Bb, so this is a test of your bass clef reading skills, too.

The part does call for a low D. If your instrument is without, you may choose to prepare this excerpt by transposing the note up an octave

The excerpt is from the very beginning of the movement.

Allegro ♩. = 108

The musical score is written for a single staff in bass clef, B-flat major (two flats), and 3/8 time. It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The tempo is marked **Allegro** with a tempo indicator of a dotted quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The music consists of four staves of notation. The first staff starts with a quarter rest followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The second staff continues the melodic line with various note values and rests. The third staff features a key signature change to one sharp (F#) for a brief section. The fourth staff concludes the excerpt with a final cadence.