

An Annotated List of Clarinet Method Books

Linda Simon-Mietus

Among the many excellent books for beginning clarinetists are differences in the emphasis on skills students have to learn. Here is a brief overview.

A Tune A Day by Paul Herfurth (Boston Music Co., 1968) is a simple and easy-to-read book with songs and studies largely in the chalameau register, and with simple rhythms. The second register is introduced, but specific guidance for crossing the break is not given. The book ends with scales that use three sharps and flats. The lesson on chromatics is more advanced than the previous lessons and will take additional explanation.

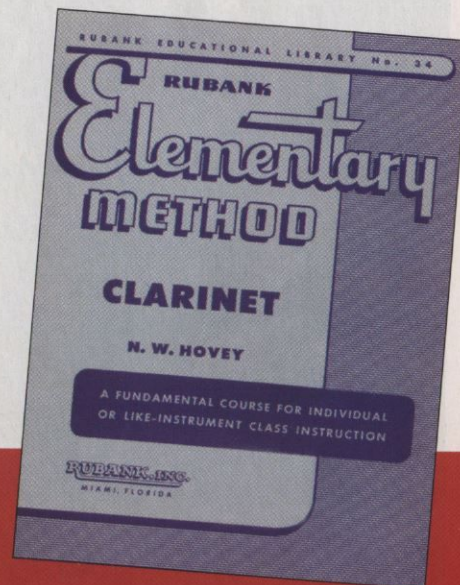
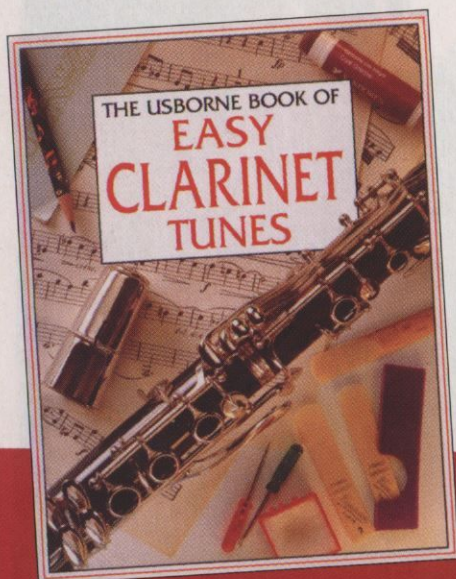
Basic Training Course for Clarinet by John Kinyon (Alfred Music, 1970) takes students sequentially through each note up to C6 as well as basic rhythms and articulations. The book begins with ascending scales and finally works up to three flats and sharps. Only a few exercises are given for each skill introduced.

Belwin Clarinet Method, Volume 1, by Kenneth Gekeler, edited by Nilo Hovey (Belwin/Warner Bros., 1948, 1985) paved the way for other method books. It is well organized, easy to read, and now available in a three-book series. Thorough directions explain each new concept and suggestions are included about using the A key and crossing the break smoothly. Major keys are introduced with two flats and sharps, and the range the book teaches extends up to C6.

Breeze Easy Method for Clarinet Book 1 by Valentine Anzelone (Warner Bros., 1984) is a tuneful approach to playing the clarinet. The basic articulations, rhythms, and meters are introduced, but more guidance is needed on crossing the break. The keys include C, F, G, and B \flat major, and the highest note is A5.

Clarinet for Beginners "Le Clarinettiste Debutante" by Jean Noel Crocq (Editions R. Martin, 1990) uses musical examples that are not always pleasant-sounding, and it is difficult to identify the logic behind the sequence in which new concepts are introduced. The fingering chart is thorough and easy to read. There are excellent photographs of many famous French clarinetists, and different types of clarinets from various periods. Unfortunately, Crocq doesn't give any instructions about how to play the technical exercises in the book, and the only scale included is a chromatic scale.

Clarinet Method for Beginning Studies: Volume 1 by Jack Snavely (Leblanc, 1964). The first five lessons focus on sound production, breathing, and fingering; tonguing is not introduced until the sixth lesson so students can focus on the other subjects. The directions for each topic are clear and thorough, although some of the melodies are weak. Volume 1 covers only the chalameau register and



WALN elementary CLARINET METHOD

for
INDIVIDUAL
or
CLASS INSTRUCTION
by
GEORGE WALN

includes the F, G, and B \flat scales. Pieces are written in C, D, and A and are rhythmically simple. This book is well researched.

24 Clarinet Studies for Beginners by Victor Polatschek (E.B. Marks Music, 1948) is more appropriate for players with some experience. It has a wide variety of exercises, including challenging intervals, articulations, rhythms, and meters, and the book would be an excellent supplement to any intermediate-level method.

The Complete Clarinet Player Book 1 by Paul Harvey (Music Sales Corp., 1994) uses more than 40 popular and well-known classical works to teach clarinet technique, but the melodies

are slightly changed to make them easy to play and occasionally sound odd. The syncopated rhythms in many of the tunes may be too difficult for beginning players. All pieces are in C, F, or G major and only include notes in the chalameau register.

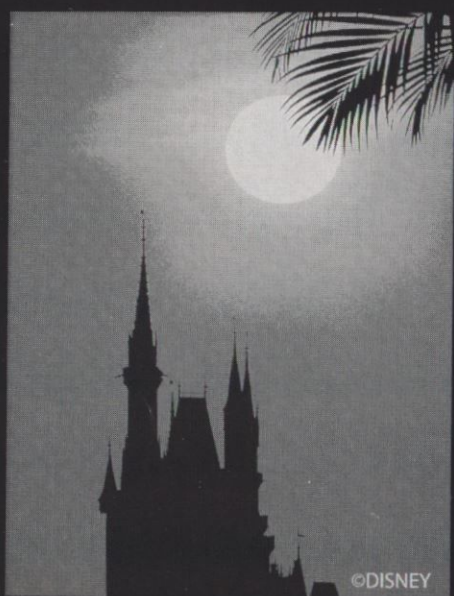
Easy Studies for the Clarinet adapted for the 1st Year and Modeled after Klose "Variance avec hyacinthe Klose: Etudes faciles adaptees pour Ire annee de Clarinette" by Didier Yves (Editions H.

Lemoine, 2000) is an excellent book for first and second year students. It includes studies of various articulations, dynamics, meters, rhythmic patterns and keys and would make excellent supplemental material for any method book.

Elementary Clarinet Method by George Waln (Belwin/Warner Bros., 1956) has helpful pictures with special attention given to correct hand and thumb position and embouchure. Many notes, rhythms, and meters are introduced quickly with few exercises devoted to each new skill. Two-and-a-half to three-octave scales and arpeggios in the keys of up to three sharps and three flats are covered. The chromatic study is ambitious, reaching to F6.

SUMMIT TOUR & TRAVEL

"THE STANDARD IN EXCELLENCE"



Customized Tour Packages To Fit The Needs of Your Group To All Destinations!

- 🎵 Performance Tours
- 🎵 Music Festivals
- 🎵 Cruises
- 🎵 Educational Tours

Atlanta • Boston • Branson • Chicago • Cincinnati/Cleveland
Dallas • Hawaii • Los Angeles/San Diego • Myrtle Beach • New Orleans
New York City • Orlando • Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg • San Antonio
St. Louis • Toronto/Montreal • Virginia Beach • Washington, DC
Williamsburg • Bahamas & Caribbean • Europe
.....and Many More!!!

Call Toll Free: 877-290-6777

or visit us on the web

www.SummitTourTravel.com

Fax All Requests To: 407-290-9775



2006 Festivals

London

International Wind Band Festival
July 1-2, 2006



New Orleans

Wind Band and Jazz Festival
April 7-11, 2006



Washington D.C.

International Wind Band Festival
April 8-12, 2006



ADDITIONAL 2006 FESTIVALS

New York Wind Band Festival: 3/24 - 3/28

New York Orchestra Festival: 6/26 - 6/30

Pacific Basin Music Festival, Hawaii: 3/25 - 4/1

San Francisco Music Festival: 3/31 - 4/4

Australia International Music Festival: 6/28 - 7/4

Festival Entry by Audition Only

- ♪ Exchange Concerts
- ♪ Since 1984
- ♪ Offices Worldwide
- ♪ Custom Touring
- ♪ Excellent References
- ♪ Major Festivals

800-922-3976

www.world-projects.com

"Commitment to Music Education and the Performing Arts"

CST: 2025574 - 40

Elementary School Beginner Clarinet Method by Norman Ward (Consolidated Music Publishers, 1956). This book features simple keys and rhythms in an easy-to-read layout. Students receive little instruction about playing in the second register, changing registers, or forming a good embouchure. The scales of C, F, and G are written in ascending form only, and the highest note used is F6.

Elementary School for Clarinet by Freidrich von Demnitz (C.F. Peters, 1977) is an excellent study book for advanced beginners and intermediate players. The first four studies are only in the chalameau register, but the rest make use of both registers. The studies gradually increase in difficulty and include a variety of rhythms, meters, keys, and articulations. There are many scale and arpeggio patterns and all etudes are musically interesting.

Hendrickson Method for Clarinet: Book I by Clarence Hendrickson. This book teaches rhythms, meters, articulations, and keys signatures. The rhythmic instruction is good, particularly when introducing compound meters. The back page includes a three octave chromatic scale and major scales and arpeggios up to three sharps and flats. The book offers no instructions about register changing but works well used as supplemental repertoire.

Introducing the Clarinet: The Individualized Instructor: Preliminary Book by James Froeth (G.I.A. Publications, 1976) is designed to supplement or precede a beginning clarinet method book. It includes thorough explanations on how to prepare the reed and assemble and care for the instrument and describes good posture, breathing, and articulation. The only notes introduced are C4 to G4.

Learn to Play the Clarinet by Frederick Jacobs (Alfred Music, 1969-1971) is a solid beginning method. Well-written exercises and pieces are designed to give students mastery over each skill. More guidance could be given to help students learn technically challenging sections, such as changing registers. The book covers scales up to two flats and two sharps and introduces the chromatic scale. The range used extends to C6.

Mel Bay's Clarinet Method by Louis Hittler (Mel Bay Publications, 1992). This comprehensive method is good for first- and second-year students and has many studies, solos, and duets for

each skill before the next one is introduced. There are pictures of new fingerings, but they can be difficult to decipher. Simple and compound meters, as well as simple and more complex rhythms are introduced. Keys up to four sharps and flats and the chromatic scale are also covered. The book approaches C6 very quickly and does not offer advice on how to change registers. Along with its clear, easy-to-read format, this book has an abundance of well-written pieces for young musicians.

Modern Course for Clarinet Book 1 by James Collis (Henry Elkan Music Publisher, 1973) offers a solid beginning playing method. Many precise instructions are given throughout the book to help students approach each new skill. Varied articulations are introduced early. The pieces are well written but may be more challenging than those in other elementary method books. Compound meters are included in many of the later pieces, yet the keys stay within C, G, and F major. The highest note is C6.

My First Klose: for the Developing Student: an Introduction to the Klose Celebrated Method for Clarinet edited by Daniel Schmidt. (Carl Fischer, 2000) is a simplified introduction to the standard Klose. This book can help young clarinetists develop technical ability. The method is full of outstanding, carefully designed etudes and makes an excellent resource for first and second year students.

Play Clarinet Today (Hal Leonard, 2001). This book is well organized, full of fun tunes, and includes a C.D. of the music. Simple meters, rhythms, and articulations are perfect for beginners, and helpful suggestions are given as each new topic is introduced. The keys of C, F, G, and B \flat are covered and the range extends to G5.

Pro Art Clarinet Method: a First and Second Year Course for Individual or Class Instruction by Charles Benham (Pro Art Publications, 1955). This complete method has clear explanations and guides students through the first and second years of playing. The first two registers of the clarinet and all major keys up to three sharps and three flats are covered. Enharmonics and the chromatic scale are also introduced.

Rubank Elementary Clarinet Method by Nilo Hovey (Rubank, 1933) is a time-tested method from which many

Marching Band Techniques

Designing, Rehearsing, and Performing
Marching Band Shows with School Ensembles
by Patrick Dunnigan



Marching Band Techniques by Patrick Dunnigan

Patrick Dunnigan, the director of the Marching Chiefs at Florida State University, offers clear explanations to common drill writing problems, with many photographs and detailed charts to clarify each point.

Order your copy for only \$17 (hardcover). For college classes, 5 or more copies are \$10.70 each. (Please add \$3 for shipping.)

The Instrumentalist, 200 Northfield, Northfield, Illinois 60093
Telephone: 888-446-6888, Fax: 847.446.6263

Dolce Elegante Cantabile

A Tradition of Innovation

The Elegante and Cantabile models have consistently been Pearl's best sellers. The reasons: handmade workmanship, precise intonation, and a brilliant and projecting sound. Now, the efficient Dolce model joins the legendary duo, to continue providing countless flutists with unrivaled confidence.

Dolce 695RBE

Sterling Silver Headjoint with Silver Clad Body, Footjoint and Keys.
Drawn Tone Holes, Offset

Elegante 795RB

Sterling Silver Headjoint, Body and Footjoint with Silver Clad Keys.
Drawn Tone Holes, In Line

Cantabile 8800REI

Sterling Silver Headjoint, Body and Footjoint, Sterling Silver Keys.
Drawn Tone Holes, In Line

Pearl Flutes

Pearl Flutes: 13814 Lookout Road - San Antonio, TX 78233 888-368-7770
www.pearlflutes.com

outstanding clarinetists have gained a solid foundation. Although fast paced and sometimes dry, it is unsurpassed in its pedagogical methodology. Its excellent introduction to rhythm, counting and compound meters and technically challenging studies make this method stand out from the rest. This book uses mostly etudes, so it is best to supplement it with a beginning-level solo book.

Studies for Clarinet by Eva Perenyi (Editio Musica, 2002), written for advanced beginners, is a valuable collection of studies by various composers. The book includes compound and simple meters, simple and moderately advanced melodic and rhythmic patterns, and varied articulations and keys. The book begins in the chalameau register but reaches E6 by the end. Offering 169 studies, it is a good companion to any method book.

The Usborne Book of Easy Clarinet Tunes (Usborne Publishing, 1995) offers excellent high-quality melodies and outstanding detailed advice. The photographs and illustrations included in the book add to its clear, detailed, and easy-to-understand approach. Great care is given to explain all aspects of music, from tone production to expression markings and repeats. The keys are kept simple, with no more than one sharp or flat, and emphasis is placed on articulation, dynamics, and phrasing. □



Linda Simon-Mietus is a senior lecturer in music at the University of Akron in Ohio. She graduated from Purchase College and Queens College in New York and was instrumental music director of the Hong Kong International School.