



ClariNotes



Clarinet Warmup Routine Three Steps to Better Technique

1) **Long Tones**, for building embouchure strength and tone. This pattern helps build smooth transitions between registers. I call it "5ths & 4ths."



2) **Scale Patterns**, for fast fingers and even technique. Start these patterns slow, but also play them fast each day. Choose tempos that stretch your abilities, but where you can maintain evenness.



3) **Articulation Exercises**, for a light fast articulation, use the tip of the tongue to the tip of the reed. Think "Lee" or "Dee" to keep the back of the tongue high in your mouth. Quarter note = 112-144



"Tongue Push Ups," use throughout the range with scale patterns.

About This Newsletter

My intention for this newsletter is to offer tips and techniques for teaching and playing clarinet. It is designed for teachers and students alike. The clarinet is unlike many of the other woodwinds in approach to voicing, articulation, and register change. I hope that this will become a great resource for anyone wanting to improve their clarinet technique.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Adam Ballif holds a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master of Music degree in clarinet performance from Arizona State University. Dr. Ballif joined the faculty of Brigham Young University-Idaho in 2012. Previously he was Associate Professor of Music at Colorado Mesa University where he taught clarinet and saxophone, and coordinated the music education program. Before Colorado, Dr. Ballif was Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana and served as Principal Clarinetist with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Brigham Young University. While in Utah, he performed with the Orchestra at Temple Square, which included performing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and recording soundtracks for motion pictures produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In July 2002, Dr. Ballif participated in the Belgium Clarinet Academy and presented a paper titled,

"Benny Goodman Influences Classical Composition," at the 2002 International Clarinet Association's convention in Stockholm Sweden. In Arizona he was principal clarinetist with the Mesa Symphony Orchestra and taught instrumental music at the elementary and middle school levels. His principal clarinet teachers include Robert Spring, William Holman, and Alan Stanek. Dr. Ballif remains active as a performer and clinician. Recent and upcoming presentations and performances include appearances at the Colorado Music Educators Conference, Music at Temple Square Concert Series, and the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest.

