



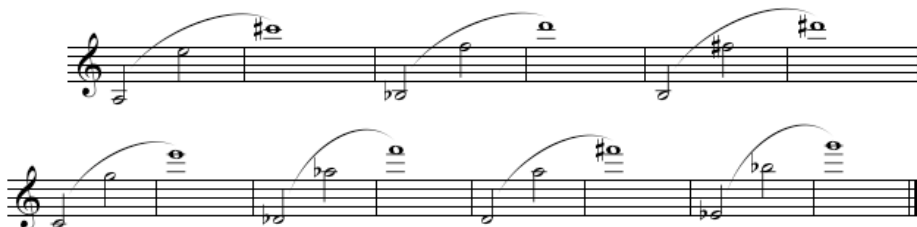
# ClariNotes



## Altissimo Register

### Steps for mastering the high notes...

- 1) **Register Change Warmup:** use this warmup each day. If the high note speaks easily then your voicing (tongue placement), air, and embouchure are correct.



- 2) **Altissimo Long Tones:** each day play slow long tones to your highest note. Try and add a new high note each week. The higher you go, notes that used to seem high will now be easy.
- 3) **Know Your Fingerings:** did you know that there are 15 different fingerings for high "G?" Each of the notes above "G" have multiple fingerings. The following book should be in every clarinetists library:

### *Clarinet Fingerings: A comprehensive guide for the performer and educator*

by: Thomas Ridenour

(Leblanc Educational Publications, 1986)



### 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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### "WAS THAT A SQUEAK OR A HIGH NOTE?"

Squeaks are a clarinet player's greatest fear; however, a squeak is simply an uncontrolled high note. If you squeak while playing open "G," you have just produced a high "D" by accident. If you squeak while playing a side-key high B-flat, then you have produced an altissimo F-sharp by accident. You could say that to learn to master the altissimo register is to learn how to squeak on purpose and in a controlled manner.

Harmonics are a way of practicing voicing (tongue position) and can be compared to controlled squeaking. The above "Register Change Warmup" can be played while only fingering the bottom note. The next two higher notes of each pattern are produced with a change in voicing instead of changing the fingering. Harmonics help to train the tongue so that

when you play the notes with the correct fingering they are much easier to produce, more resonant, and more in tune. Another way to practice harmonics is to play bugle calls. While fingering a low "E," and while plugging the end of the bell with your leg, you can make the clarinet sound like a harmonica and play bugle calls (similar to a trumpet player). Experiment with simple bugle tunes like "Taps" and "Reveille." With these practicing tips, your fear of squeaks will leave and you will enjoy playing the high notes.

