



# ClariNotes



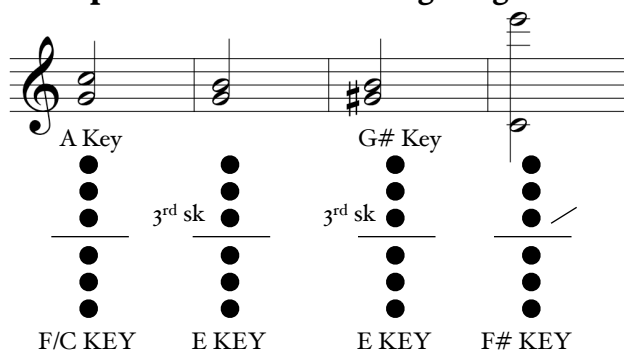
## Clarinet Harmony? An Introduction to Multi-phonics

### 1) Multi-phonics based on regular fingerings: (Finger upper note.)



-While fingering the upper note, relax the embouchure and adjust your voicing (tongue position) for the lower register.

### 2) Multi-phonics with vented fingerings: (These are with thumb.)



### 3) Multi-phonics produced by singing:

-Experiment with singing while playing. This can produce a variety of effects. Try it with high and low notes. Experiment with sustaining a pitch on the clarinet while changing the pitches with your voice.

### 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.

Dr. Adam Ballif  
ballifa@byui.edu  
www.adamballif.com

## PRACTICING MULTI-PHONICS IS LIKE GOING BACK TO BEGINNING BAND

Do you remember when you were learning high notes for the first time? The first time you worked your way up to high "C," the high notes wanted to stay low. When you tried to hit a high "C" right on, without working up to it, it probably came out like a fuzzy open "G." The reason the note wouldn't speak is because your tongue was too low in the back of the mouth, and the voicing wasn't correct for the altissimo register. Producing effective multi-phonics is accomplished by finding the right voicing, which is generally in between a properly voiced high note and the improperly voiced attempt from your younger days. In finding that balance, a hint of the high note sounds along with the more somber sounding low note, and you have a multi-

phonic (two notes sounding at the same time). Multi-phonics are a product of splitting the column of air in two, and thus creating two or more separate pitches. The splitting of the air column is produced by venting a key, voicing a lower register, singing while playing, or a combination of each.

Extended techniques, such as multi-phonics, when produced properly can be a stunning effect. However, practicing them at first can be as painful as going back to 7th grade beginning band. Yet, it's a worthy endeavor for any serious clarinet student. Being able to manipulate your tongue position to produce these effects will make you more aware of the influence that voicing has on your playing.