

Writing for Woodwinds

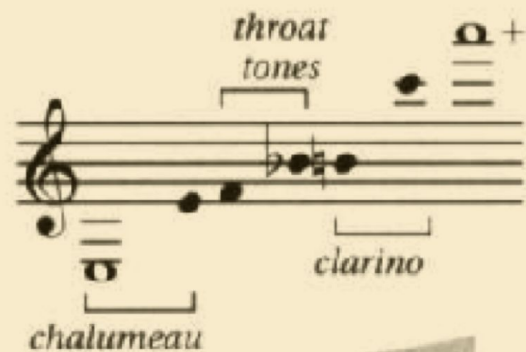
Part 2

Music 525

Bb Clarinet

- Sounds down a major second below written
- Most versatile of the woodwind family
- Use in melody, accompaniment
- Avoid rapid passages that cross the break repeatedly

WRITTEN RANGE



chalumeau

dynamic contour

**Practical
(Written)**



Depending on the capability of the player, the upper register (above the clarino register), may be extended.

Bb Clarinet - Range and Characteristics

- Chalumeau Register (low) - Warm, dark, rich and somewhat hollow. Provides a full body to the ensemble.
- Throat Tones (middle) - weaker, pale, unrefined. The G#, A, and Bb are particularly weak.
- Clarino register (middle to high) - focused, clear, brilliant. Nice tone and projection.

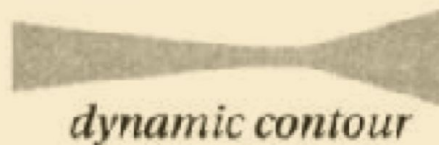
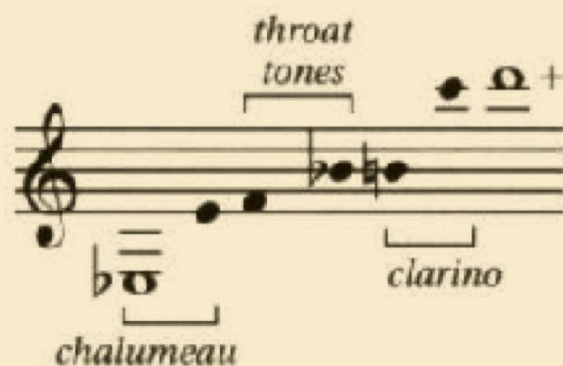
Bb Clarinet - Other considerations

- Better dynamic capabilities than the other woodwinds
- Piercing and shrill above high C if played loudly
- Excellent technical agility like the flute
- Single tonguing is the norm, smooth legatos work well, staccatos aren't as clearly defined
- Vibrato is not standard practice
- Clarino register is great for lyrical solo passages
- The Chalumeau register works well for accompaniment figures and in doubling with the lower woodwinds and brass.

Bass Clarinet

- Sounds down one octave and major second below written.
- Deep, rich, and sonorous instrument
- Just a few players can balance a large section of Bb Clarinets
- Most effective below the break
- Functions mostly as a bass line instrument

WRITTEN RANGE



Bass Clarinet - Range and Characteristics

- Chalumeau Register - rich, dark , and woody.
- Throat Tones - Better projection than expected and clearer as it ascends. Still a little on the weak side though.
- Clarino Register - Upper register is windy, tense, and strained

Bass Clarinet - Other Considerations

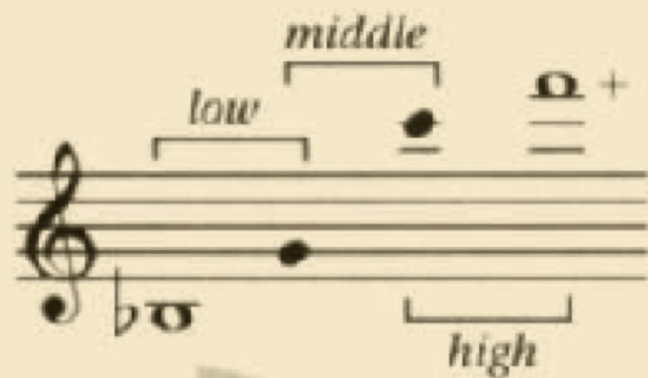
- Less agile and slower speaking than higher clarinets
- Good dynamic control and decent flexibility
- Best qualities are heard in the lowest notes up to a middle C
- Can double with either low clarinets or Bari Sax
- Middle and low registers can double any tenor or bass voice
- Some Bass Clarinets are equipped with keys that can allow it to go down to the Low D, Db, and C below Eb.
- Capable of strong sforzando and staccato attacks.
- Notated in Treble Clef

The Other Clarinets

- Eb Clarinet
- A Clarinet
- Alto clarinet
- Contralto Clarinet
- Contrabass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophone

- Sounds down a major 6th
- Saxophone should be recognized for its unique color, flexibility, and function within the woodwind choir.
- Get away from the old-school thinking of using it as strictly a horn doubling device.
- Can shift sound and tone qualities



dynamic contour

Practical
(Written)



Alto Sax - Range and Characteristics

- Low Register - Full, rich, reedy quality. Soft dynamics at attacks are difficult - especially on higher saxophones
- Middle Register - smoother and more delicate. A mix of a horn like quality with a reed based texture.
- High Register - Brighter sound but good players can still make it have a sweet quality. Sometimes can risk sounding generic

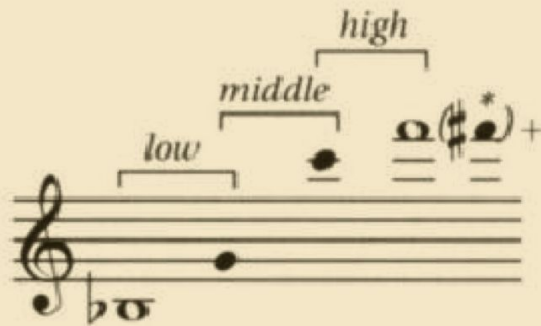
Alto Sax - Other Considerations

- Altissimo Register - depends on the advanced player's capability
- Dynamic variance can be wide like the clarinet
- Flexible and agile - rapid skips, arpeggios, scales and sustained phrases
- Balance with other instruments is excellent.
- Single and flutter tongue is ok. No double or triple. Avoid trills in the very top and bottom of the register.

Tenor Saxophone

- Sounds a major 9th lower than written (Bb Instrument)
- •Throatier and more aggressive than the Alto.
- •Avoid extreme lows (honky) and extreme highs (generic, alto)
- •Shares many flexibility characteristics with the Alto
- Used widely in Jazz and Commercial Ensembles

WRITTEN RANGE



dynamic contour

Practical
(Written)

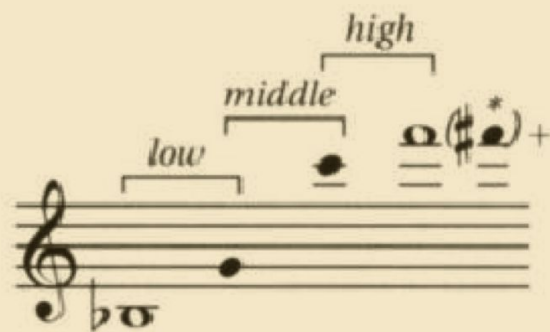


**Older model tenor saxophones
are equipped with a high F# key.*

Baritone Saxophone

- Low register is a bit more harsh than its middle register
- •Eb Instrument
- •High register is weak and should be avoided
- •The great articulator!
- •Either Bass Line or Solo Instrument

WRITTEN RANGE



dynamic contour

**Practical
(Written)**



**Older model tenor saxophones
are equipped with a high F# key.*