Chapter 34

Pedagogies for Teaching Clarinet

**Supplemental Materials: Clarinet Family with Transpositions**

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There are many sizes of clarinets. Over history, there have been many more types of clarinets than we use today. But since the clarinet was first invented a few years before 1700, the instrument which has survived as the “head of the family” is the soprano clarinet (keyed in Bb and A). The music written over time has dictated this. Most of it was written for soprano clarinet.

All other clarinets are known as “auxiliary” clarinets. In the professional music world, if one plays the clarinet, they are expected to be experienced playing at least one of the auxiliary instruments.

**Bb Soprano Clarinet** sounds a M2 lower than written pitch. Therefore, you must write the pitches a M2 Higher than you want them to sound.

**A Soprano Clarinet** sounds a m3 lower than written pitch. Therefore, you must write the pitches a m3 higher than you want them to sound.

**E-flat Sopranino Clarinet** sounds a m3 higher than written pitch. Therefore, you must write the pitches a m3 lower than you want them to sound.

**E-flat Alto Clarinet** sounds M6 lower than the written pitch. Therefore, you must write the pitches a M6 higher than you want them to sound.

**Bb Bass Clarinet** sounds a M9 lower than the written pitch. Therefore, you must write pitches a M9 higher than you want them to sound.

**Eb Contra-Alto Clarinet** sounds M6 plus and octave below written pitch. Therefore, you must write the pitches a M6 higher than you want them to sound.

**BBb Contrabass Clarinet** sounds M9 plus and octave below written pitch. Therefore, you must write pitches a M9 higher than you want them to sound.

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| **Instrument** | **Transposition** | **Sounds** | **Written** |
| E-flat Sopranino Clarinet | Minor 3rd | Higher  | Lower |
| A Soprano Clarinet | Minor 3rd | Lower  | Higher |
| B-flat Soprano Clarinet | Major 2nd | Lower | Higher |
| E-flat Alto Clarinet | Major 6th | Lower | Higher |
| B-flat Bass Clarinet | Major 9th | Lower | Higher |
| E-flat Contralto or Contrabass Clarinet | Major 6th plus an octave | Lower | Higher |
| B-flat Contrabass Clarinet | Major 9th plus an octave | Lower | Higher |