Patriotic Songs for Bass Clarinet

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Seven songs, easiest first, from Taps to The Star-Spangled Banner. Most are written in C major, which sounds in concert B♭; Anchors Aweigh, The Star-Spangled Banner are in G major. The last page shows the fingering for every note used, E3 to E5.

How to read it: each box is one note, with the letter on top, its octave number beside it and the word underneath. A gold bar under a box marks a long note (two beats or more). A dash means hold the word over another note. Hear every song, slow or full speed, at thefingeringchart.com/bass-clarinet/patriotic-songs/

1 Taps

EASY C major (concert B♭) · 4 notes, G3 to G4 · 4/4 time

1	G3 *Day*	G3 *is*	C4 *done,*					
2	G3 *gone*	C4 *the*	E4 *sun,*					
3	G3 *from*	C4 *the*	E4 *lake,*	G3 *from*	C4 *the*	E4 *hills,*	G3 *from*	C4 *the*	E4 *sky;*
4	C4 *all*	E4 *is*	G4 *well,*					
5	E4 *safe-*	C4 *ly*	G3 *rest,*					
6	G3 *God*	G3 *is*	C4 *nigh.*					

Tip: Taps is played slowly and freely, so let each long note ring for its full length before you move on. Keep the short pickup notes light, keep the volume steady through each held note, and don't hurry it.

Music: arranged by Daniel Butterfield (1862). Words: traditional, not official.

2 Yankee Doodle

EASY C major (concert B♭) · 9 notes, E3 to F4 · 2/4 time

1	C4 *Yan-*	C4 *kee*	D4 *Doo-*	E4 *dle*	C4 *went*	E4 *to*	D4 *town,*	G3 *a-*					
2	C4 *rid-*	C4 *ing*	D4 *on*	E4 *a*	C4 *po-*	B3 *ny;*							
3	C4 *Stuck*	C4 *a*	D4 *fea-*	E4 *ther*	F4 *in*	E4 *his*	D4 *cap*	C4 *and*	B3 *called*	G3 *it*	A3 *mac-*	B3 *a-*	C4 *ro-*	C4 *ni.*
4	A3 *Yan-*	B3 *kee*	A3 *Doo-*	G3 *dle,*	A3 *keep*	B3 *it*	C4 *up,*	G3 *Yan-*	A3 *kee*	G3 *Doo-*	F3 *dle*	E3 *dan-*	F3 —	G3 *dy,*
5	A3 *Mind*	B3 *the*	A3 *mu-*	G3 *sic*	A3 *and*	B3 *the*	C4 *step,*	A3 *and*	G3 *with*	C4 *the*	B3 *girls*	D4 *be*	C4 *han-*	C4 *dy.*

Tip: The verse moves in steady eighth notes. Tongue every note separately and keep them even, and keep the dotted pairs in the chorus short-long-short, like a march.

Music: traditional (known by the 1750s). Words: traditional verse; chorus as printed in The Everyday Song Book (1927).

3 My Country, 'Tis of Thee

EASY C major (concert B♭) · 7 notes, B3 to A4 · 3/4 time

1	C4 *My*	C4 *coun-*	D4 *try,*	B3 *'tis*	C4 *of*	D4 *thee,*	E4 *sweet*	E4 *land*	F4 *of*	E4 *lib-*	D4 *er-*	C4 *ty,*	D4 *of*	C4 *thee*	B3 *I*	C4 *sing;*
2	G4 *Land*	G4 *where*	G4 *my*	G4 *fa-*	F4 *thers*	E4 *died,*	F4 *land*	F4 *of*	F4 *the*	F4 *Pil-*	E4 *grims'*	D4 *pride,*				
3	E4 *From*	F4 *ev-*	E4 —	D4 *'ry*	C4 —	E4 *moun-*	F4 *tain-*	G4 *side,*	A4 *let*	F4 —	E4 *free-*	D4 *dom*	C4 *ring!*			

Tip: This is a slow waltz with three beats to a bar. The dotted quarter and eighth pairs (“coun-try”, “lib-er-ty”) are the main rhythm, so count them carefully. Give the last note of each line all three beats.

Words: Samuel Francis Smith (1831). Music: the tune of “God Save the King” (anonymous, 1740s).

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4 America the Beautiful

MEDIUM C major (concert B♭) · 10 notes, D4 to E5 · 4/4 time

1	G4 *O*	G4 *beau-*	E4 *ti-*	E4 *ful*	G4 *for*	G4 *spa-*	D4 *cious*	D4 *skies,*	E4 *for*	F4 *am-*	G4 *ber*	A4 *waves*	B4 *of*	G4 *grain,*		
2	G4 *For*	G4 *pur-*	E4 *ple*	E4 *moun-*	G4 *tain*	G4 *maj-*	D4 *es-*	D4 *ties*	D5 *a-*	C♯5 *bove*	D5 *the*	E5 *fruit-*	A4 *ed*	D5 *plain!*		
3	G4 *A-*	E5 *mer-*	E5 *i-*	D5 *ca!*	C5 *A-*	C5 *mer-*	B4 *i-*	B4 *ca!*	C5 *God*	D5 *shed*	B4 *his*	A4 *grace*	G4 *on*	C5 *thee,*		
4	C5 *And*	C5 *crown*	A4 *thy*	A4 *good*	C5 *with*	C5 *broth-*	G4 *er-*	G4 *hood*	G4 *from*	A4 *sea*	C5 *to*	G4 *shin-*	D5 *ing*	C5 *sea!*		

Tip: Every line starts with the same short-long pattern (“O beau-ti-ful”). Keep the eighth note short, then breathe at the end of each line so the next one starts on time.

Words: Katharine Lee Bates (1895, revised 1911). Music: “Materna” by Samuel A. Ward (1882).

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5 Battle Hymn of the Republic

MEDIUM C major (concert B♭) · 8 notes, E3 to E4 · 4/4 time

1	G3 *Mine*	G3 *eyes*	G3 *have*	G3 *seen*	F3 *the*	E3 *glo-*	G3 *ry*	C4 *of*	D4 *the*	E4 *com-*	E4 *ing*	E4 *of*	D4 *the*	C4 *Lord;*		
2	C4 *He*	B3 *is*	A3 *tram-*	A3 *pling*	A3 *out*	B3 *the*	C4 *vin-*	B3 *tage*	C4 *where*	A3 *the*	G3 *grapes*	A3 *of*	G3 *wrath*	E3 *are*	G3 *stored;*	
3	G3 *He*	G3 *hath*	G3 *loosed*	G3 *the*	G3 *fate-*	F3 *ful*	E3 *light-*	G3 *ning*	C4 *of*	D4 *His*	E4 *ter-*	E4 *ri-*	E4 *ble*	D4 *swift*	C4 *sword;*	
4	C4 *His*	D4 *truth*	D4 *is*	C4 *march-*	B3 *ing*	C4 *on.*										
5	G3 *Glo-*	F3 *ry!*	E3 *glo-*	G3 *ry!*	C4 *Hal-*	D4 *le-*	E4 *lu-*	C4 *jah!*	A3 *Glo-*	B3 *ry!*	C4 *glo-*	B3 *ry!*	C4 *Hal-*	A3 *le-*	G3 *lu-*	E3 *jah!*
6	G3 *Glo-*	F3 *ry!*	E3 *glo-*	G3 *ry!*	C4 *Hal-*	D4 *le-*	E4 *lu-*	C4 *jah!*	C4 *His*	D4 *truth*	D4 *is*	C4 *march-*	B3 *ing*	C4 *on.*		

Tip: The verse is almost all dotted-eighth and sixteenth pairs. Make the long note of each pair three times as long as the short one, not a lazy swing. Then let the Glory, glory, hallelujah chorus broaden out.

Words: Julia Ward Howe (1861). Music: “John Brown’s Body”, from a camp-meeting tune credited to William Steffe (1856).

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6 Anchors Aweigh

HARDER G major (concert F) · 11 notes, G3 to B4 · 2/2 time

1	G3	An-	B3	chors	D4	a-	E4	weigh,	B3	my	E4	boys,	G4	An-	G4	—	A4	chors	D4	a-	G4	weigh!
2	E4	Fare-	G4	well	E4	to	D4	col-	E4	lege	F♯4	joys,	G4	we	C♯4	sail	E4	at	A4	break	G4	of	F♯4	day-	D4	ay-	C4	ay-	A3	ay.
3	G3	Through	B3	our	D4	last	E4	night	B3	on	E4	shore,	G4	drink	A4	to	D4	the	G4	foam,										
4	E4	Un-	G4	til	E4	we	D4	meet	E4	once	F♯4	more,	G4	here's	B4	wish-	D4	ing	C♯4	you	D4	a	A4	hap-	D4	py	C♯4	voy-	D4	age	G4	home!

Tip: It is a march counted in two big beats per bar, so the whole notes are long. Hold "boys", "aweigh" and "foam" for their full length. Then tongue the quick notes near the end ("here's wishing you a happy voyage") lightly.

Music: Charles A. Zimmermann (1906). Words of this verse: 1926 revision of Alfred Hart Miles's 1906 lyrics.

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7 The Star-Spangled Banner

HARDER G major (concert F) · 11 notes, G3 to D5 · 3/4 time

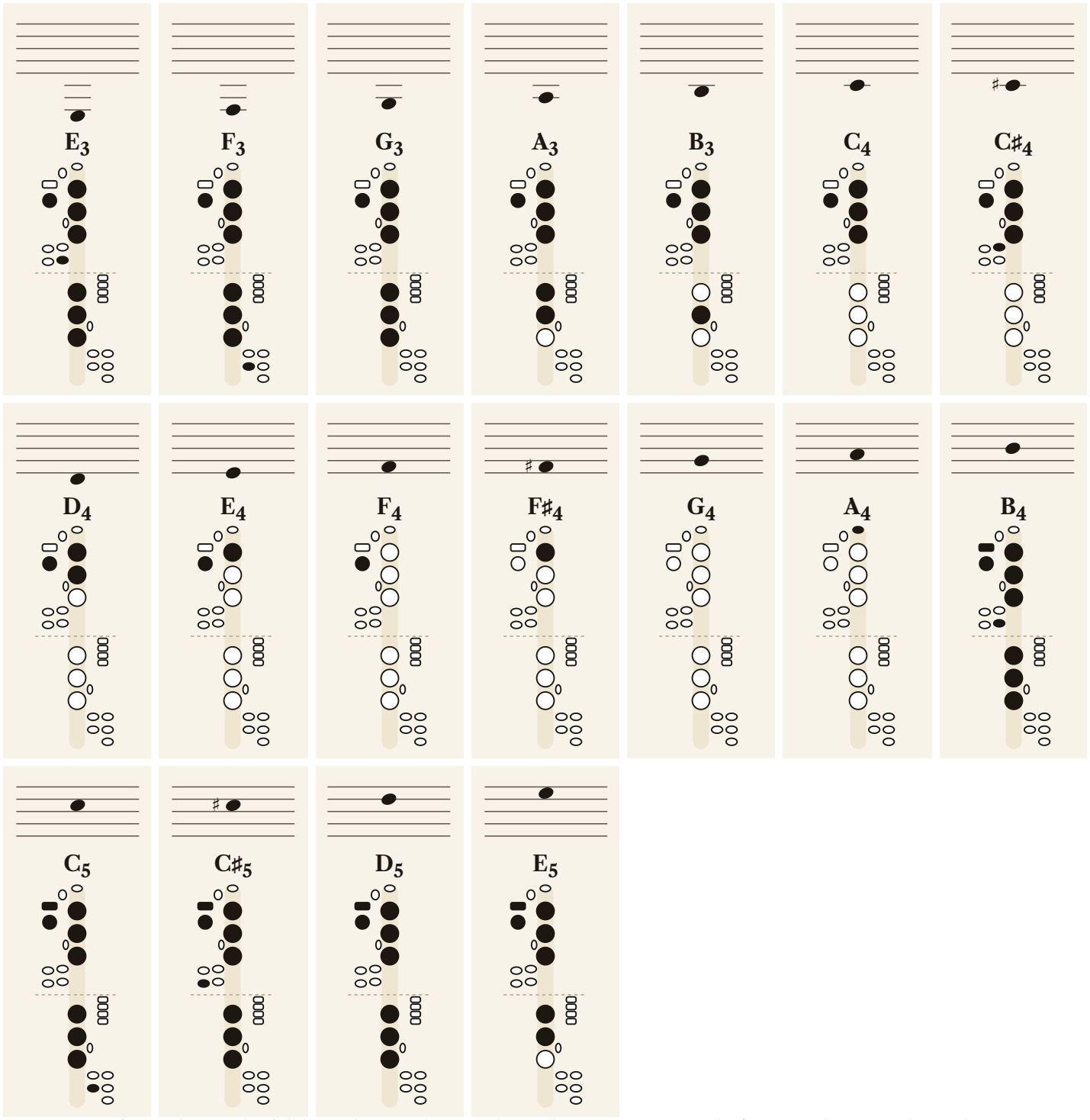
1	D4	O	B3	—	G3	say,	B3	can	D4	you	G4	see,	B4	by	A4	the	G4	dawn's	B3	ear-	C♯4	ly	D4	light,
2	D4	What	D4	so	B4	proud-	A4	ly	G4	we	F♯4	hailed	E4	at	F♯4	the	G4	twi-	G4	light's	D4	last	B3	gleam-	G3	ing?				
3	D4	Whose	B3	broad	G3	stripes	B3	and	D4	bright	G4	stars,	B4	through	A4	the	G4	per-	B3	il-	C♯4	ous	D4	fight,						
4	D4	O'er	D4	the	B4	ram-	A4	parts	G4	we	F♯4	watched,	E4	were	F♯4	so	G4	gal-	G4	lant-	D4	ly	B3	stream-	G3	ing?				
5	B4	And	B4	the	B4	rock-	C5	ets'	D5	red	D5	glare,	C5	the	B4	bombs	A4	burst-	B4	ing	C5	in	C5	air,						
6	C5	Gave	B4	proof	A4	through	G4	the	F♯4	night	E4	that	F♯4	our	G4	flag	B3	was	C♯4	still	D4	there;								
7	D4	O	G4	say,	G4	does	G4	that	F♯4	—	E4	star-	E4	span-	E4	gled	A4	ban-	C5	ner	B4	—	A4	yet	G4	—	G4	wave	F♯4	—
8	D4	O'er	D4	the	G4	land	A4	—	B4	of	C5	the	D5	free	G4	and	A4	the	B4	home	C5	of	A4	the	G4	brave?				

Tip: The anthem covers the widest range on this page, so practice the high part ("And the rockets' red glare") and the last line slowly before playing it straight through. Take a full breath before each of those lines.

Words: Francis Scott Key (1814). Music: "To Anacreon in Heaven" by John Stafford Smith (c. 1773). Service version of 1918.

Fingerings for every note in these songs

18 notes, from E3 up to E5. Written in treble clef. A written C sounds as concert B♭, an octave and a step lower. Filled keys are pressed; open keys stay up.



Free to copy for students. The full bass clarinet chart, scales and easy songs are at thefingeringchart.com/bass-clarinet/