Patriotic Songs for 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/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	G_3	B_3	D_4	E_4	B_3	E_4	G_4	G_4	A_4	D_4	G_4
	An-	*chors*	*a-*	*weigh,*	*my*	*boys,*	*An-*	—	*chors*	*a-*	*weigh!*

2	E_4	G_4	E_4	D_4	E_4	$F\sharp_4$	G_4	$C\sharp_4$	E_4	A_4	G_4	$F\sharp_4$	D_4	C_4	A_3
	Fare-	*well*	*to*	*col-*	*lege*	*joys,*	*we*	*sail*	*at*	*break*	*of*	*day-*	*ay-*	*ay-*	*ay.*

3	G_3	B_3	D_4	E_4	B_3	E_4	G_4	A_4	D_4	G_4
	Through	*our*	*last*	*night*	*on*	*shore,*	*drink*	*to*	*the*	*foam,*

4	E_4	G_4	E_4	D_4	E_4	$F\sharp_4$	G_4	B_4	D_4	$C\sharp_4$	D_4	A_4	D_4	$C\sharp_4$	D_4	G_4
	Un-	*til*	*we*	*meet*	*once*	*more,*	*here's*	*wish-*	*ing*	*you*	*a*	*hap-*	*py*	*voy-*	*age*	*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.

7 The Star-Spangled Banner

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

1	D_4	B_3	G_3	B_3	D_4	G_4	B_4	A_4	G_4	B_3	$C\sharp_4$	D_4
	O	—	*say,*	*can*	*you*	*see,*	*by*	*the*	*dawn's*	*ear-*	*ly*	*light,*

2	D_4	D_4	B_4	A_4	G_4	$F\sharp_4$	E_4	$F\sharp_4$	G_4	G_4	D_4	B_3	G_3
	What	*so*	*proud-*	*ly*	*we*	*hailed*	*at*	*the*	*twi-*	*light's*	*last*	*gleam-*	*ing?*

3	D_4	B_3	G_3	B_3	D_4	G_4	B_4	A_4	G_4	B_3	$C\sharp_4$	D_4
	Whose	*broad*	*stripes*	*and*	*bright*	*stars,*	*through*	*the*	*per-*	*il-*	*ous*	*fight,*

4	D_4	D_4	B_4	A_4	G_4	$F\sharp_4$	E_4	$F\sharp_4$	G_4	G_4	D_4	B_3	G_3
	O'er	*the*	*ram-*	*parts*	*we*	*watched,*	*were*	*so*	*gal-*	*lant-*	*ly*	*stream-*	*ing?*

5	B_4	B_4	B_4	C_5	D_5	D_5	C_5	B_4	A_4	B_4	C_5	C_5
	And	*the*	*rock-*	*ets'*	*red*	*glare,*	*the*	*bombs*	*burst-*	*ing*	*in*	*air,*

6	C_5	B_4	A_4	G_4	$F\sharp_4$	E_4	$F\sharp_4$	G_4	B_3	$C\sharp_4$	D_4
	Gave	*proof*	*through*	*the*	*night*	*that*	*our*	*flag*	*was*	*still*	*there;*

7	D_4	G_4	G_4	G_4	$F\sharp_4$	E_4	E_4	E_4	A_4	C_5	B_4	A_4	G_4	G_4	$F\sharp_4$
	O	*say,*	*does*	*that*	—	*star-*	*span-*	*gled*	*ban-*	*ner*	—	*yet*	—	*wave*	—

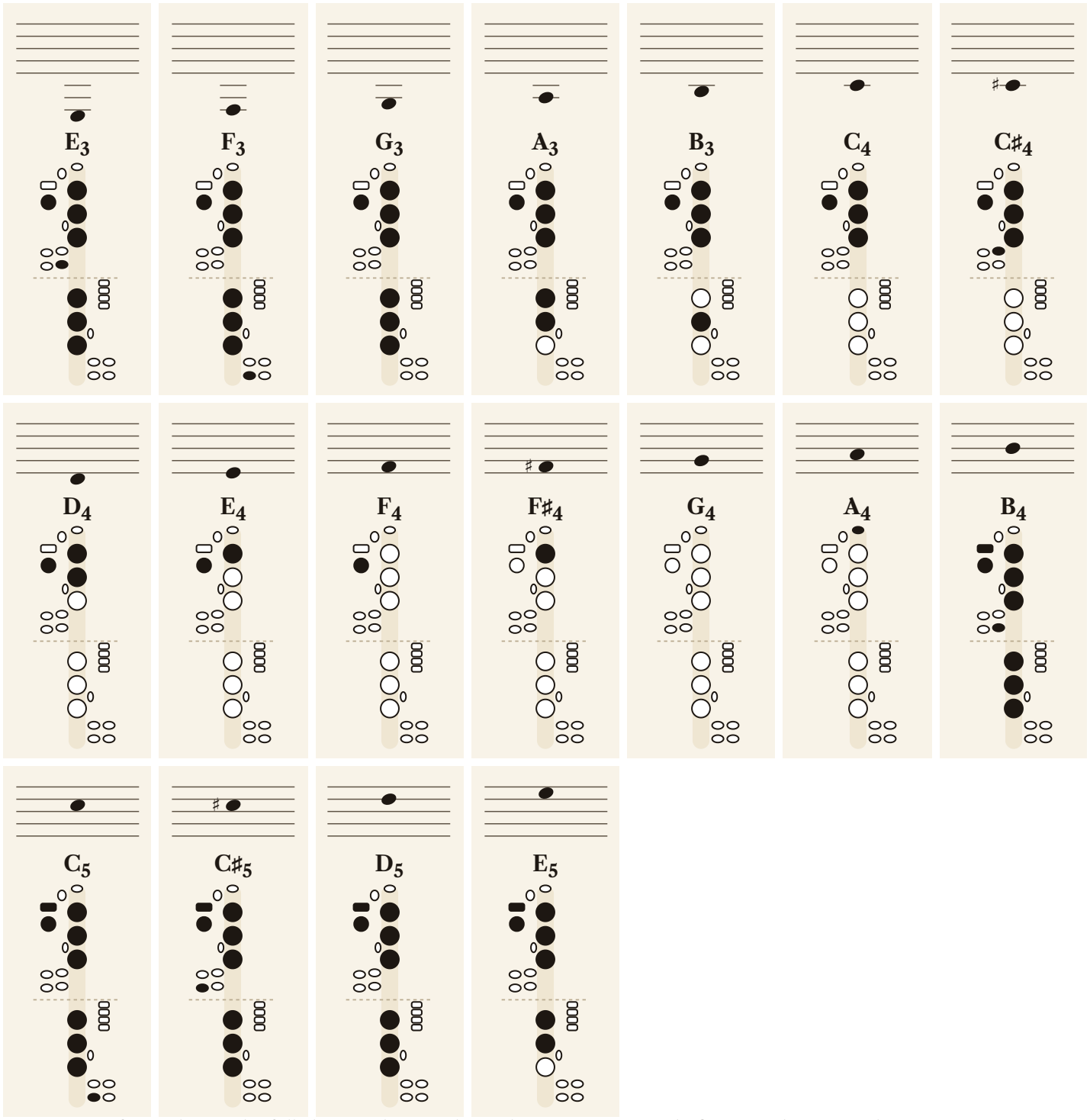
8	D_4	D_4	G_4	A_4	B_4	C_5	D_5	G_4	A_4	B_4	C_5	A_4	G_4
	O'er	*the*	*land*	—	*of*	*the*	*free*	*and*	*the*	*home*	*of*	*the*	*brave?*

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 pitch. A written C on the B♭ clarinet sounds as concert B♭. Filled keys are pressed; open keys stay up.



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