

Kade Slayton

Mountain Poodle

Duet for Two B-flat Clarinets

(March 2025)



Duration: ca. 6 minutes

Program Notes

This music explores some of the unique characters of my dog Lucy, presented by two B-flat clarinets. Quick staccato gestures capture her silly playfulness; while longer more expansive lines exhibit behaviors of a sleepy dog who can take up all the space on your bed.

There are moments in the music that depict real aspects of this mountain poodle's life. For instance the act of her stretching on a bed which makes her appear comically long. Or the rhythmic lapping of water from her bowl after a walk. In the piece I also invite you to take a walk with Lucy to experience how often she can get distracted.

Performance Notes

m. 79 - grace notes in first clarinet are not to be played too quickly

Instructions for the "walk" section are laid out inside the score. As a disclaimer, the second clarinet will only have to memorize the music from measure 102-104, as well as remember measure 108. The same will be required when the process happens again on the next page.

m. 106 - if designated player 1 is unable to whistle then they are to snap their fingers in the notated rhythm instead.

m.150 - the nail tapping is notated as a descending group of four to represent the four fingers of the right hand hitting the front of the instrument in succession. In other words, tap with index finger first and ending with pinky finger.

Transposed Score

Mountain Poodle

Duet for Two B-flat Clarinets

Kade Slayton 2025

♩ = 75 *lazily*

Clarinet in B♭ 1

Clarinet in B♭ 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

stubborn dog who can't follow commands: player 1 looks at and leans towards 2nd clarinet, as how to play the notes from

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

23 A

Cl. in Bb 1

proudly *p* *f* *f*

Cl. in Bb 2

f *pp* *pp* *f* *f*

31

Cl. in Bb 1

slap tongue *f*

Cl. in Bb 2

mp

36

Cl. in Bb 1

f

Cl. in Bb 2

mf

42

Cl. in Bb 1

p *ff* *p* *mf* *cresc.*

Cl. in Bb 2

mp *ff* *p* *mf*

48

Cl. in Bb 1

(cresc.) -- f *proudly* *mp* *f*

Cl. in Bb 2

f *f*

same as before-
dog unsuccessfully
following commands

54

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mf

f

f

58

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mf

f

f

looking into the eyes
of a puppy:
*both players play with expression and look
at each other longingly by the time they get to
the fermata*

poco rit. -----

64

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

poco rit. -----

now legato

66

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

a tempo

mp

f

mf

f

mf

♩ = 80 Now
a more
brisk pace

molto ritardando -----

Cl. in B♭ 1

diminuendo *p*

Cl. in B♭ 2

f *broaden with descent* *mp*

*player slowly stretches
one leg at a time in the
space in front of them*

B "Out for a Walk"

Cl. in B♭ 1

f *p* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ 2

mp *mp* *mp*

You are
DOG OWNER

Cl. in B♭ 1

mf

Cl. in B♭ 2

You are LUCY

p *f* *p*

92 1st Clarinet plays in time

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mf *mp* *rit.*

f *f*

while slowing down, 2nd also simultaneously turns their music slowly and everybody, pretending to be doing one random thing nearby

99

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

f *tr*

now walk in the direction you are facing, while at the same time playing the above material in a quicker tempo and curiously. When you hear 1st Clarinet whistle / snap, stop walking, then walk back to your original spot while playing your next material (see m.108)

Back to brisk pace

♩ = 80

face 2nd Clarinet and call them back to their original spot with the material below. now whistle up to an unspecified high pitch, like calling for a dog

104 With renewed energy

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

f *f* *tr*

f *mp*

while walking back, continuously play the next four eighth notes as many times as needed and stop only when you get back to your original spot. The measure of rest begins when 2nd Clarinet is in their spot

111

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

p *mf* *mp*

117

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mf *p* *rit.*

1st Clarinet plays in time

face 2nd Clarinet again and call them back once more to their original spot whistle

repeat the same process from measure 98 exactly

125

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

f *f* *tr*

repeat same process from measure 102

play this bar as many times as needed to get back to original tempo. When there, continue seamlessly to the next measure

134

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

slow down tempo *f*

140

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

p *f* *f*

145 $\text{♩} = 70$ Slow walk concludes

Cl. in Bb 1 *mf*

Cl. in Bb 2 *mf*

$\text{♩} = 85$

C

Rapidly tap metal part of the instrument with fingernails of right hand*

150

Cl. in Bb 1 *ff*

Cl. in Bb 2 *p* 3 3 3 3 3

player rapidly motions the instrument upwards then back down, synchronized with each triplet figure. Here you are pretending the clarinet is your tongue and you are using it to lap up water from a bowl like a dog would do

152

Cl. in Bb 1 *f* **quicker!** $\text{♩} = 90$

Cl. in Bb 2 *pp* 3 3 *mp* 3 *f* 3 3

"playing ball"

156 *slap tongue*

Cl. in Bb 1 *p* 5 *f* *ff* *mf*

Cl. in Bb 2 *f* *ff* *mf*

161

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

pp

p

f

5

166

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

ff

mf

pp

ff

mf

pp

173

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

p cresc.

p

p cresc.

3 3

177

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mp cresc.

p

mp cresc.

D ♩ = 80 Now a little slower

181

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

(cresc.)

ff

(cresc.)

ff

3 3 3

player 1 looks at and leans forward towards 2nd Clarinet, as if demonstrating how to play the notes below

184

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

p *pp* *mf*

pp *ppp* *p*

188

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

p *f*

f *pp* *f*

f
proud attempt
to copy 1st
Clarinet

195

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

ff *f*

f *f*

199

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mf

f

looking into the eyes
of a puppy:
*both players look at each other
by the time they get to the fermata*

204

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

cresc.

f

f

poco rit.

209

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

mp

f

mf *diminuendo*

now legato

f

mf *dim.*

rit.

217

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

(dim.)

p

(dim.)

p