

Bytesize Bagpipes

Lesson 5 - Gracenotes and Strikes

Challenge 1: The Gracenote Scale



The bagpipe produces a continuous sound. There is no way in which we can stop and start the sound between notes, and no way of increasing or decreasing the volume of the instrument whilst playing. In order to separate notes of the same pitch, to provide emphasis and accent on particular notes, and to aid musical phrasing, we use a type of musical ornament known as a gracenote.

To play this exercise

Step 1: Sound Low G on the chanter

Step 2: Lift and quickly return the B finger to produce a B gracenote, still on Low G.

Step 3: Lifting and quickly returning the C finger produces a C gracenote.

Remember to keep all the other holes covered so that Low G is sounded between each gracenote.

Step 4: Continue up and down the chanter in this manner, in order to play a grace note for each note in the scale.

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Challenge 2: Acrostic Poem

Write a poem about playing bagpipes, with each line starting with a letter of the word Bagpipes!

B _____

A _____

G _____

P _____

I _____

P _____

E _____

S _____