

James Madison University Ensemble Auditions - FALL 2026 - Clarinet

Dear JMU Clarinetists,

Enclosed please find the materials for Fall 2026 Ensemble Auditions. This audition will determine your placement in the JMU Bands and Orchestras. Audition will be held in a recorded format. Full info is/will be listed here:

<https://www.jmu.edu/music/resources/students/audition-excerpts.shtml>

EXCERPTS:

1. J. Brahms – *Clarinet Quintet*, opening.

<https://youtu.be/QnNmM8SMkiU?si=Klnf56l8jT0gWt3a>

2. C. M. von Weber – *Oberon*, Overture (arranged for band)

<https://youtu.be/UfSHGC1cDBc?si=uQJK9kfgx7c1nQ8o>

3. I. Stravinsky – *Petrushka*, two excerpts.

<https://youtu.be/esD90diWZds?si=cxI79XRI1DreAFaA> (12:50 and 24:40, listen to the while thing, because it is so good)

4. R. Strauss – *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*

<https://youtu.be/SS7dy3c8gZM?si=zxUjmGhn1Ue4ThpG> (around 11:07)

*If have an A Clarinet, please play Brahms on A clarinet, otherwise please play it on B-flat clarinet. Do not transpose, play as printed.

Listen to the recordings. Carefully study terms, tempi, rhythms, articulations, dynamics and phrasing, while practicing technical and expressive aspects. If a precise tempo is not indicated, please refer to recordings in order to find out an acceptable tempo range. If your technical limitations do not allow playing one or more of the excerpts at a suggested tempo, please play slower. Please remember that strengthening your fundamentals and applying them to excerpts is crucial for your playing quality. Start with making sure that you play correct notes, rhythms and articulations, then consider styles, expression/characters.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the materials. Best of luck in your preparation and audition. Ensemble directors and I are looking forward to hearing you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Šarūnas Jankauskas
Associate Professor of Clarinet
James Madison University
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1. Brahms – *Clarinet Quintet*, mvt. I, Allegro. Beg. (m. 5) – to 1 m. before reh. 2. In A.

2A. Stravinsky – *Petrushka*, Cadenza (Add slurs between notes 2&3 and 4&5). In B-flat.

2B. Stravinsky – *Petrushka*, "Bear and a Peasant". Quarter note = 60. In B-flat.

3. Weber: Oberon, Overture, version for band. In B-flat.

Allegro con fuoco (♩ = 126)

p *cresc.* *f* *p* *cresc.*

f *ff*

fff

fff

4. Strauss - Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks. 6 measures after reh. 30 to reh. 33.
Tempo range: dotted quarter = 84-108. In B-flat.

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" by Johann Strauss II. The score is written in B-flat major and 3/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a *cresc.* (crescendo) instruction. The second staff features a *ff* (fortissimo) marking. The third staff has *ff* markings and includes measure numbers 29 and 31. The fourth staff has a *ff* marking. The fifth staff has a *ff* marking. The sixth staff has a *ff* marking. The seventh staff has a *ff* marking and includes measure number 32. The eighth staff includes measure numbers 33, 15, 34, and 3. The score is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages and dynamic contrasts.