

Andante ♩ = 80

J.S. Bach

The image shows a musical score for four woodwind instruments: Oboe 2, Clarinet in Bb 1, Clarinet in Bb 2, and Bassoon 1. The score is in common time (C) and features a tempo of Andante with a metronome marking of ♩ = 80. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The Oboe 2 part is in the treble clef and plays a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5, then a half note E5. The Clarinet in Bb 1 and Clarinet in Bb 2 parts are in the treble clef and play a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes. The Bassoon 1 part is in the bass clef and plays a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes. Dynamics are marked as *p* (piano) at the beginning and *pp* (pianissimo) at the end of each part. The score includes slurs and hairpins to indicate dynamics and phrasing.

This is somewhat better. Here the oboe has the melody, which stands out. The middle parts are given to two clarinets, so they blend, and the bassoon plays the bass. Note that clarinets and bassoon also blend quite well, especially when they are closely spaced.

But what if this were a harmonic accompaniment to something else, say a melody in the strings? The oboe would be too prominent.

How could this problem be solved?