

Symphony No. 6, Gustav Mahler Solo at Number 24 in the first movement.
This solo is in bass clarinet in A. There are many other passages in this symphony in A so make sure you're comfortable transposing.

The solo is played at about 66-72 to the quarter note.

This solo needs to be done in one breath, so take a very large breath. It is also critical that the long note be counted very accurately and not "shortchanged" At this point the strings have the melody. Use a metronome as a guide when you practice it. Play this solo with a lot of expression. Begin at a good p and crescendo to about a mf and then decrescendo to a mere whisper, as soft as possible. Then make a steady crescendo with increasing intensity to the climax in measures 3 and 4 on the Cb, Ab and G. Make sure you get a very full, warm sound on the written Cb. The two crescendos in measure 4 and 5 are a bit ambiguous. I think of it as a reminder too not only continue the previous crescendo but to also increase the intensity. Be aware of intonation and tone quality throughout this solo. Holding the long note was well as going through the break and throat tones can be problematic. Listen for a homogeneous quality throughout.

In the second solo after the rest the tonguing should be light with no sense of straining. The 16th notes should not sound staccato, but relaxed, and the half note should be rich and warm. Although these are the prominent solos in the symphony there are many other sections that could be asked for at an audition.