

SESSION SKILLS

PLAYBACK

For your exam, you can choose either Playback or Improvising.

If you choose Playback, you will be asked to play some music you have not seen or heard before.

In the exam, you will be given the song chart and the examiner will play a recording of the music. You will hear several four-bar to eight-bar phrases on the recording; you should play each of them straight back in turn. There's a rhythm track going throughout, which helps you keep in time. There should not be any gaps in the music.

In the exam you will have two chances to play with the recording:

- First time – for practice
- Second time – for assessment

You should listen to the audio, copying what you hear; you can also read the music. Here are some practice song charts.

Don't forget that the Playback test can include requirements which may not be shown in these examples, including those from earlier grades. Check the parameters at www.trinityrock.com to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice playback 1

♩ = 102

Am

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The bass line features a melodic sequence starting with a triplet of eighth notes (G2, F2, E2) and moving up stepwise to D2, C2, B1, A1, G1. The guitar accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern: 12-14, 12-14, 12, 10, 5-7, 5-7, 5-3, 3-5, 0-3, 5-3, 5-5, 3-5.

Measures 5-8. The bass line continues the melodic sequence, ending with a triplet of eighth notes (G1, F1, E1). The guitar accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern: 12-14-14, 12-14, 12-14, 10, 5-7-7, 5-7, 5-7, 3, 3-5, 5-0, 3-5, 2-3, 3-5, 5.

Measures 9-12. The bass line features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets. The guitar accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern: 7-9, 7-5-7, 5-5-5-5, 7-9, 7-5-7, 5-5-5-5, 5, 7-9, 7-5, 7-5-2, 5, 2-3, 5, 5.

Measures 13-16. The bass line features a melodic sequence with a triplet of eighth notes (G1, F1, E1) at the end. The guitar accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern: 3, 5, 5, 5, 7-9, 7, 9-12, 12-14, 16, 12-14, 12-14, 12, 10, 7, 7-5, 7, 5.

Measures 17-20. The bass line features a melodic sequence with a triplet of eighth notes (G1, F1, E1) at the end. The guitar accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern: 12-13-14, 12-13-14, 12-14, 10, 5-6-7, 5-6-7, 5-7, 3, 3-5, 0-3, 5-3, 5-6-7, 5-7, 5, 7, 5, 3, 5.

Practice playback 2

♩ = 98

G#5 B5 C#5 G#5 B5 C#5 G#5

ff

5 G#5 B5 C#5

f

7 G#5 B5 C#5 G#5

mp *ff*

10 N.C. E5 N.C. F#5 N.C. F#5 G#5 N.C. F#5 N.C. G#5 N.C. A5

mp *mf*

14 G#m C#5 G#5

p *ff*

SESSION SKILLS

IMPROVISING

For your exam, you can choose either Playback, or Improvising. If you choose to improvise, you will be asked to improvise over a backing track that you haven't heard before in a specified style.

In the exam, you will be given a song chart and the examiner will play a recording of the backing track. The backing track consists of a passage of music played on a loop. You should improvise a bass line which fits the track.

In the exam you will have two chances to play with the recording:

- First time – for practice
- Second time – for assessment

Here are some improvising charts for practice.

Don't forget that the improvising test can include requirements which may not be shown in these examples, including those from earlier grades. Check the parameters on www.trinityrock.com to prepare for everything which might come up in the exam.

Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 110 **Jazz (swing)**

|| 5/4 Ebmaj7 Cm Ebmaj7 Abmaj7 Bb7

5 || Cm7 Fm Gm7 Ab Fm7 G G7

9 || Cm7 F7 Bbmaj7 Ebmaj7 Adim D7(b9) Gm7

13 || Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Bm7(b5) E7 A Bb/Ab :||

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 140 **Boogie-style rock**

4/4 G⁷ C⁷ G⁷ C⁷ F⁷ C⁷

5 D⁷ Em Fdim D⁷/F[#] G⁷ E^b7 D⁷

9 G⁷ C⁷ G⁷ N.C.
solo break - - - - -

13 D⁷ Bm Am Em C D⁷ :||