

SESSION PLAYBACK SKILLS

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 two-bar or four-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

$\text{♩} = 76$ (with a shuffle)

The musical score is written for a drum set in 4/4 time with a shuffle feel. The tempo is 76 beats per minute. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 4/4. The first system (measures 1-4) features chords C, F, G, C, and F. The second system (measures 5-8) features chords F, Cmaj7, Em, and G. The third system (measures 9-12) features chords Am, C, Gsus4, and F. The fourth system (measures 13-16) features chords Dm, Am, F, G7, and C. Dynamics include mf, sfz, mp, and f. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and triplets. The score is written for a drum set, with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature of 4/4.

Chords: C, F, G, C, F, F, Cmaj7, Em, G, Am, C, Gsus4, F, Dm, Am, F, G7, C.

Dynamics: *mf*, *sfz*, *mp*, *f*.

Practice playback 2

♩. = 60

Gm Cm Gm Cm N.C.

mp

5 Gm7 Cmadd4 E^b Gm⁺ N.C.

mf

9 B^bmaj7 Gm F⁺sus4 B^b E^b

f *p*

13 Ride Gm Cm Gm E^bmaj7 D Gm

mp *ff* *sfz*

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 drum groove to it.

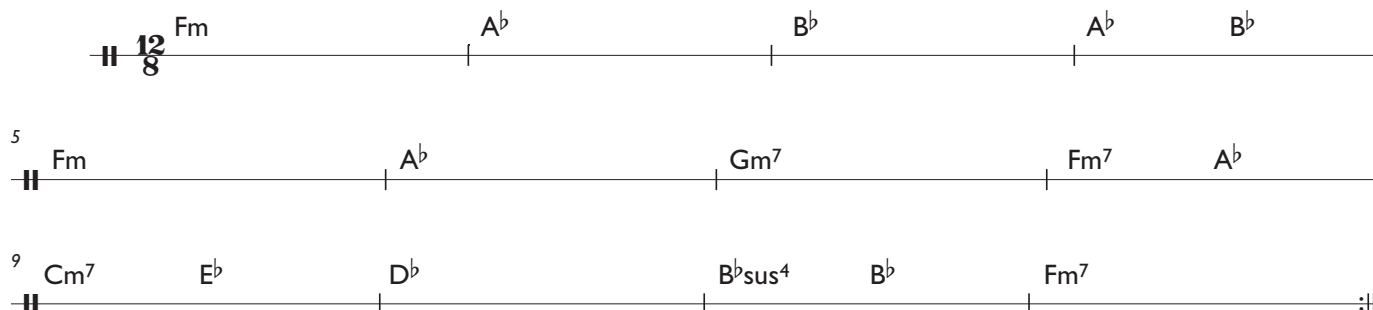
In the exam you will have two chances to play with the recording:

- 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 at www.trinityrock.com to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

Practice improvisation 1

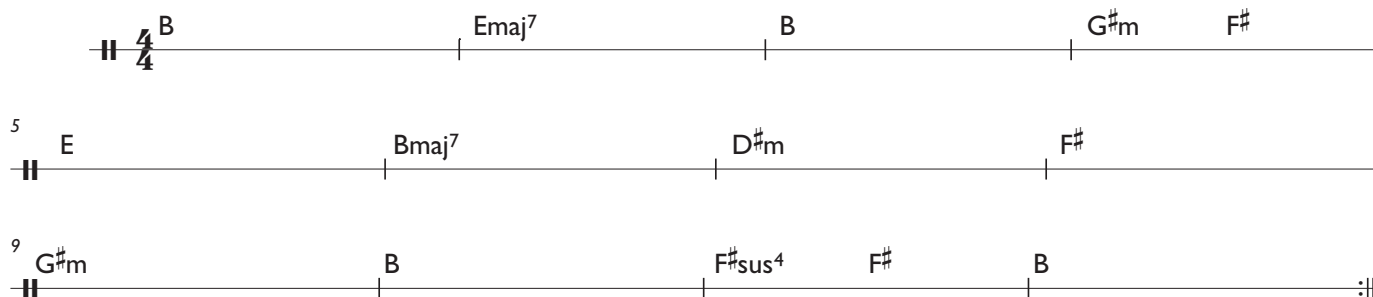
♩ = 90 Funk



Practice improvisation 1 chart showing a 12-measure sequence of chords. The chart is divided into three lines of four measures each. The first line starts with a 12/8 time signature. The chords are: Fm, A^b, B^b, A^b, B^b. The second line starts with a 5-measure mark and contains: Fm, A^b, Gm⁷, Fm⁷, A^b. The third line starts with a 9-measure mark and contains: Cm⁷, E^b, D^b, B^bsus⁴, B^b, Fm⁷. The chart ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 Disco



Practice improvisation 2 chart showing a 12-measure sequence of chords. The chart is divided into three lines of four measures each. The first line starts with a 4/4 time signature. The chords are: B, Emaj⁷, B, G[#]m, F[#]. The second line starts with a 5-measure mark and contains: E, Bmaj⁷, D[#]m, F[#]. The third line starts with a 9-measure mark and contains: G[#]m, B, F[#]sus⁴, F[#], B. The chart ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.