

# 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 which are also on the included MP3s.

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 in the syllabus to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

# Practice playback 1

♩ = 116 (swing)

Fm C7 D<sup>b</sup>maj7 B<sup>b</sup>m7 Fm7 Gm7<sup>b</sup>5 C7

*p* *f*

TAB

5 Bm7 Fm7 C7 D<sup>b</sup>7 C7

*pp* *ff* *mf*

TAB

9 Fm7 B<sup>b</sup>7 E<sup>b</sup>m7 A<sup>b</sup>7 D<sup>b</sup>7 C7 Fm7

*mp*

TAB

13 Fm7 D<sup>b</sup>7 B<sup>b</sup>7 Fm7 Gm7<sup>b</sup>5 C7 Fm7

*f* *mp* *ff*

TAB

# Practice playback 2

♩ = 144

B<sup>b</sup>m Fm E<sup>b</sup>m F7

*mp*

TAB: 3 | 1-2 | 1-2-4 | 3 | 1-3 | 1-2-4 | 2 | 2 | 1-2 | 1-4 |

5 B<sup>b</sup>m A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>m F7

*ff mp ff mp f*

TAB: 3 | 1-2 | 4-2 | 1-3 | 1-3 | 1-4-2 | 1-3 | 1-4 | 1-3 | 4-2 | 1-3 | 2

9 B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup>m F7 B<sup>b</sup>m

*mf*

TAB: 6-4 | 6-6 | 4-6-6 | 6-7 | 6-7 | 7-7 | 6-7 | 7-8 | 5-6 | 8-8 | 6-8 | 8-6 | 9

13 B<sup>b</sup>m Fm F7 B<sup>b</sup>m

*mp f*

TAB: 3 | 3-3 | 3-3 | 3-3 | 1-4 | 1-3 | 3-3 | 1-0 | 1-0 | 1-4 | 0

17 B<sup>b</sup>m F7 G<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>m B<sup>b</sup>m F7 B<sup>b</sup>m

*p f*

TAB: 1-2 | 1-4-2 | 1-4 | 1-4 | 2-4 | 2-4-3 | 2-4 | 1-4 | 2 | 1-3 | 1-4 | 1-3 | 4 | 1

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# 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 can choose whether to play a lead melodic line, rhythmic chords, or a combination of the two.

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 which are also on the included MP3s.

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 in the syllabus to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

## Practice improvisation 1

$\text{♩} = 110$  **Jazz (swing)**

$\text{5/4}$

$E^b\text{maj}^7$  | Cm |  $E^b\text{maj}^7$  |  $A^b\text{maj}^7$  |  $B^b7$  |

$^5$  Cm $^7$  | Fm | Gm $^7$  |  $A^b$  | Fm $^7$  | G | G $^7$  |

$^9$  Cm $^7$  | F $^7$  |  $B^b\text{maj}^7$  |  $E^b\text{maj}^7$  | Adim | D $^7(b^9)$  | Gm $^7$  |

$^{13}$  Dm $^7$  | G $^7$  | Cmaj $^7$  | Fmaj $^7$  | Bm $^7(b^5)$  | E $^7$  | A |  $B^b/A^b$  :||

## Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 140 **Boogie-style rock**

4/4 G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup>

5 D<sup>7</sup> Em Fdim D<sup>7</sup>/F<sup>#</sup> G<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup>7 D<sup>7</sup>

9 G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> N.C.  
solo break - - - - -

13 D<sup>7</sup> Bm Am Em C D<sup>7</sup> :||