

SESSION SKILLS

PLAYBACK

For your exam, you can choose either Playback or Improvising. If you choose Playback, you will be asked to perform 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 sing 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 perform 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. The music is printed without text and may be sung to any vowel (with or without consonant) or to sol-fa. Some of the examples may include accents so you may need to use consonants or scat words for these to make them really obvious.

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

♩. = 66

Chords: D^b, D^b/C, B^bm, D^b/A^b, G^b, A^b7

Measures 1-4: *f*

Measure 5: *mf*

Measures 6-7: *ff*

Measures 8-9: *f*

Measures 10-11: *mf*

Measures 12-13: *f*

Measures 14-15: *p*

Chords: G^b, E^bm7, A^b, A^b7, D^b, D^b/C, B^bm, B^bm/A^b, G^b, A^b7, G^b, D^b

Practice playback 2

$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music, each with a key signature of two sharps and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 100$. The score includes various dynamics and articulations:

- Staff 1:** Measures 1-3. Chords: D, C, G, D. Dynamics: *mf*, *mf*. Articulation: *mf* at the end.
- Staff 2:** Measures 4-6. Chords: C, G, F#m, Em7, F#m, G. Dynamics: *sub. p*. Articulation: *sub. p* at the end.
- Staff 3:** Measures 7-9. Chords: F, Eb, D, Bm. Dynamics: *f*, *pp*. Articulation: *f* at the end.
- Staff 4:** Measures 10-12. Chords: D, F#m, C, G, D. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*. Articulation: *mf* at the end.
- Staff 5:** Measures 13-15. Chords: D, Am, G, Cadd2. Dynamics: *mf*, *mp*. Articulation: *mf* at the end.
- Staff 6:** Measures 16-18. Chords: F, Am, G, D. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*. Articulation: *f* at the end.

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 melody line over the backing track.

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

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

Here are some improvising charts for practice. The music is printed without text and may be sung to any vowel (with or without consonant) or to sol-fa.

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

♩. = 66 **Metal**

II 9 8 E⁵ D⁵ E⁵ G⁵ A⁵ G⁵ A⁵ C⁵

5 B B⁷ Am⁷ Am(maj⁶) C Cmaj⁷ B B⁷

9 Em Em(maj⁷) Em⁷ Em⁶ Am Am(maj⁷) Am⁷ Am⁶

13 E⁵ D⁵ B⁵ A⁵ E⁵ D⁵ E⁵ :||

solo break

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 Latin

4/4

1 Cm Cm/B^b A^b Gm⁷ Fm Fm/E^b B^b B^b7

5 E^bmaj⁷ E^b/D Cm Cm/G A^b Fm⁷ B^b B^b7

9 G G⁷ A^b A^b/G Fm Fm⁷ G G⁷

13 Cm Cm/B^b Fm Fm⁷ D⁷ G⁷ :||