

# 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](http://www.trinityrock.com) to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

# Practice playback 1

♩ = 70 (♩ = ♪ throughout)

C<sup>#5</sup> 8<sup>va</sup> 8<sup>va</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> G<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> B<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup>

*ff*

N.H. N.H.

5 F<sup>#5</sup> G<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> G<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup>

*f*

9 C<sup>#5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup>

13 C<sup>#5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> G<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> B<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup>

*pp* *f*

17 C<sup>#5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> F<sup>#5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> C<sup>#5</sup>

*ff* *sfz*

The score is written for bass guitar in the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of five systems of music, each with a melodic line and a fretboard diagram below it. The fretboard diagrams show fingerings for the thumb (T), index (A), and bass (B) strings. The piece starts with a tempo of 70 beats per minute and a half note equal to a quarter note throughout. The first system (measures 1-4) features a forte (ff) dynamic and includes two 'N.H.' (Natural Harmonic) markings. The second system (measures 5-8) continues with a forte (f) dynamic. The third system (measures 9-12) includes a piano (pp) dynamic marking. The fourth system (measures 13-16) features a piano (pp) dynamic followed by a forte (f) dynamic. The fifth system (measures 17-20) includes a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and a sforzando (sfz) dynamic marking. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.



# 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 at [www.trinityrock.com](http://www.trinityrock.com) to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

## Practice improvisation 1

$\text{♩} = 100$  **Jazz funk**

1 Cm7 D<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>9</sup> G G<sup>7</sup>

5 Cm<sup>7</sup> F<sup>7</sup> Cm<sup>7</sup> Fmaj<sup>9</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

9 Cm<sup>7</sup> Fm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup>sus<sup>2</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Fm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup>

13 N.C.  
solo break-----

# Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 80 Samba

11  $\frac{2}{2}$  Em<sup>7</sup> Eb<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>9</sup> Db<sup>7</sup>

5 Gsus<sup>4</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>b7</sup> Fmaj<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b9</sup> C<sup>6</sup>

9 N.C.  
solo break-----

13 Eb D<sup>7</sup> Dbmaj<sup>7</sup> C<sup>6</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> :||