

# 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

♩ = 80

Am Em/G Fmaj7 Dm F/G

*f*

5 Cmaj7 Fmaj7 Dm7 Bm7<sup>b5</sup> E7

*mf*

9 F Fm<sup>6</sup> Em7 Ebm7 Dm7 F/G

*pp*

13 Cmaj<sup>9</sup> Fmaj7 Dm7/G Cmaj7

*f* *p* *f* *ff*

# Practice playback 2

♩ = 76

The musical score is written for a drum set in 12/8 time. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a different rhythmic pattern and dynamic marking. The patterns are indicated by 'x' marks on the drum staff, and the dynamics are indicated by letters like *mf*, *f*, *p*, *pp*, *sfz*, and *ff*. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic context. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing repeat signs. The overall structure is a continuous sequence of rhythmic exercises.

Staff 1: *mf*, Ride, B<sup>b</sup>/C, F/C, B<sup>b</sup>/C, F/C

Staff 2: 3, C, F/C, C

Staff 3: 5, F, G, Am, Em, *f*

Staff 4: 7, F, Fm, C, *sfz*

Staff 5: 9, B<sup>b</sup>, F, A<sup>b</sup>, G, *p*

Staff 6: 11, G<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup>, A<sup>b</sup>, B<sup>b</sup>, C

Staff 7: 13, B<sup>b</sup>/C, F/C, B<sup>b</sup>/C, F/C, *f*, *pp*

Staff 8: 15, C, F/C, C, *f*, *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 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](http://www.trinityrock.com) to prepare for everything which might come up in your exam.

## Practice improvisation 1

$\text{♩} = 66$  Metal

1  $\text{||}$  9 E<sup>5</sup> D<sup>5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> G<sup>5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> G<sup>5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> C<sup>5</sup>

5  $\text{||}$  B B<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>7</sup> Am(maj<sup>6</sup>) C Cmaj<sup>7</sup> B B<sup>7</sup>

9  $\text{||}$  Em Em(maj<sup>7</sup>) Em<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>6</sup> Am Am(maj<sup>7</sup>) Am<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>6</sup>

13  $\text{||}$  E<sup>5</sup> D<sup>5</sup> B<sup>5</sup> A<sup>5</sup> E<sup>5</sup> D<sup>5</sup> E<sup>5</sup>  $\text{||}$   
solo break

## Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 Latin

4/4

1 Cm Cm/B<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Fm Fm/E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b7</sup>

5 E<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup>/D Cm Cm/G A<sup>b</sup> Fm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b7</sup>

9 G G<sup>7</sup> A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>/G Fm Fm<sup>7</sup> G G<sup>7</sup>

13 Cm Cm/B<sup>b</sup> Fm Fm<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> :||