

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 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

♩ = 120 **Swung**

f

p *mf*

Practice playback 2

♩ = 112

f

TAB: 2 2 0 2 0 2 | 2 0 2 | 3 2 0 4 0 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 4. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 112. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The dynamics are marked with a forte *f*. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for each measure: Measure 1: 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 2; Measure 2: 2, 0, 2; Measure 3: 3, 2, 0, 4, 0, 2; Measure 4: (empty).

5

mp

TAB: 0 0 0 3 | 3 0 2 | 3 2 0 0 4 5 | 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp. The dynamics are marked with mezzo-piano *mp*. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for each measure: Measure 5: 0, 0, 0, 3; Measure 6: 3, 0, 2; Measure 7: 3, 2, 0, 0, 4, 5; Measure 8: 2.

9

mf *f*

TAB: 2 2 2 2 0 2 | 0 0 0 0 2 0 | 2 3 0 2 0 | 2 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp. The dynamics are marked with mezzo-forte *mf* and forte *f*. The guitar tablature below shows the fretting for each measure: Measure 9: 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 2; Measure 10: 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0; Measure 11: 2, 3, 0, 2, 0; Measure 12: 2, 0.

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 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.

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

♩ = 80 **Blues (swung)**

Chord chart for Practice improvisation 1. The chart is written on two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. The first measure contains the chord F. The second measure contains Gm. The third measure contains C. The fourth measure contains F. The second staff starts with a bass clef and a 5-measure rest. The first measure contains C7. The second measure contains Dm. The third measure contains C7. The fourth measure contains F. The fifth measure contains a double bar line with repeat dots.

Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 100 **Country**

Chord chart for Practice improvisation 2. The chart is written on two staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains the chord G. The second measure contains C. The third measure contains D7. The fourth measure contains Em. The second staff starts with a bass clef and a 5-measure rest. The first measure contains Bm. The second measure contains Am. The third measure contains C. The fourth measure contains G. The fifth measure contains a double bar line with repeat dots.