

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

$\text{♩} = 60$

mf

5

f

9

p *f*

Practice playback 2

♩ = 72 **Swung**

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system consists of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff contains chords and rests, with accents (>) over the first and third measures. The guitar tablature shows fret numbers: 7-7, 7-7, 7-7, 7-7, 5-6, 3-5, 2-3, 0-2. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first measure.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The second system continues with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff shows a mix of chords and a melodic line starting in measure 7. The guitar tablature includes fret numbers and a sequence of notes: 0-2-4-2-0-3, 3-4, 3-2, 4. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the first measure of this system.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The third system continues with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The treble staff features a melodic line with slurs. The guitar tablature shows fret numbers and notes: 2-5, 2-4-2-0, 2-4-2, 0. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the first measure of this system.

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

$\text{♩} = 80$ Reggae

A guitar chord chart for a reggae piece. It consists of two lines of a five-fret guitar neck. The first line starts with a 4/4 time signature and a C major chord (Cm). The second line starts with a 5th fret marker and a D minor 7th chord (Dm7). The chords are: Cm, F minor (Fm), G minor (Gm), Cm, F minor (Fm) on the first line; and Dm7, A flat (A^b), F minor 7th (Fm⁷), G 7th (G⁷), Cm on the second line. The chart ends with a repeat sign.

Practice improvisation 2

$\text{♩} = 44$ R'n'B

A guitar chord chart for an R'n'B piece. It consists of two lines of a five-fret guitar neck. The first line starts with a 6/8 time signature and an E major chord (E). The second line starts with a 5th fret marker and a C sharp minor chord (C#m). The chords are: E, C sharp minor (C#m), E major 7th (Emaj⁷), F sharp minor (F#m) on the first line; and C sharp minor (C#m), B, F sharp minor (F#m), A, E on the second line. The chart ends with a repeat sign.