

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

## Practice playback 1

$\text{♩} = 90$

The musical score is written for piano and bass. It consists of three systems of music, each with a piano staff and a bass staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 12/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The score includes various chords and dynamics. The first system has four measures with chords E, B, C#m, and A, and a dynamic of mp. The second system has five measures with chords Amaj7, B, C#m7, B, and G#m, with dynamics pp, mf, and sfz. The third system has four measures with chords Amaj7, B, C#m, and a final measure with a dynamic of pp. The score also includes a 'Red.' section at the bottom.

5 Amaj7 B C#m7 B G#m

9 Amaj7 B C#m

Red. Red. Red.

## Practice playback 2

♩ = 120

Gm Cm Gm Cm N.C.

*mf*

5 Gm7 Cmadd4 Eb Gm N.C.

*f*

9 Bbmaj7 Gm Fsus4 Bb Gm7 F7sus4

*ff*

Ped.

13 Gm Cm Gm Ebmaj7 D7 Gm9

*mp* *sfz* *pp*

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

### Practice improvisation 1

♩ = 90 Funk

Practice improvisation 1 is a 12-measure chart in Funk style at 90 bpm. It is written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chart is divided into three measures per line. Measure 1 (measures 1-4) starts with a double bar line and a 12/8 time signature, followed by Fm. Measure 2 (measures 5-8) starts with a double bar line and a 5-measure rest, followed by A♭. Measure 3 (measures 9-12) starts with a double bar line and a 9-measure rest, followed by Cm7, E♭, D♭, B♭sus4, B♭, and Fm7. The chart ends with a repeat sign.

12/8 Fm A♭ B♭ A♭ B♭

5 Fm A♭ Gm7 Fm7 A♭

9 Cm7 E♭ D♭ B♭sus4 B♭ Fm7

### Practice improvisation 2

♩ = 120 Disco

Practice improvisation 2 is a 12-measure chart in Disco style at 120 bpm. It is written on a single staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The chart is divided into three measures per line. Measure 1 (measures 1-4) starts with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature, followed by E. Measure 2 (measures 5-8) starts with a double bar line and a 5-measure rest, followed by A. Measure 3 (measures 9-12) starts with a double bar line and a 9-measure rest, followed by C#m, E, Bsus4, B, and E. The chart ends with a repeat sign.

4/4 E Amaj7 E C#m B

5 A Emaj7 G#m B

9 C#m E Bsus4 B E