

# 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

♩ = 64

Fm B<sup>b</sup>m D<sup>b</sup>maj7 A<sup>b</sup>

*mp*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ cont. sim.

5 Fm B<sup>b</sup>m A<sup>b</sup> C

*mf*

no pedal

9 Fm E<sup>b</sup>6 B<sup>b</sup>/D D<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m C

*pp* *ff*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_

13 A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m/E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>maj7 B<sup>b</sup>m/E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m/E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>maj7

*mp*

Ped. \_\_\_\_\_ cont. sim.

## Practice playback 2

♩ = 100

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 100. The first system consists of four measures. The first measure is marked with a forte *f* dynamic and a G chord. The second measure has accents (>) over the notes. The third measure is marked with an F chord. The fourth measure has accents (>) over the notes. The bass line consists of quarter notes in the first two measures and quarter notes with a final quarter rest in the last two measures.

Musical notation for measures 5-7. The piece continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second system consists of three measures. Measure 5 is marked with a G chord. Measure 6 is marked with an A chord and a piano *p* dynamic. Measure 7 is marked with a D chord and a forte *f* dynamic. The bass line consists of quarter notes in the first two measures and quarter notes with a final quarter rest in the last measure.

Musical notation for measures 8-10. The piece continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third system consists of three measures. Measure 8 is marked with a G chord and a forte *f* dynamic, featuring triplets in both hands. Measure 9 is marked with a forte *ff* dynamic. Measure 10 has accents (>) over the notes. The bass line consists of quarter notes with triplets in the first two measures and quarter notes with a final quarter rest in the last measure.

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# 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

$\text{♩} = 66$  **Metal**

$\frac{9}{8}$

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>

<sup>5</sup> B B<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>7</sup> Am(maj<sup>6</sup>) C Cmaj<sup>7</sup> B B<sup>7</sup>

<sup>9</sup> 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>

<sup>13</sup> 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> *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>b</sup>7

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>b</sup>7

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> :||