



Qualifications

Support for teachers

Publications

Internationally respected assessments, resources and professional development programmes to support music education worldwide

www.trinitycollege.co.uk/music



Developing musical talent

Why choose Trinity's music exams?

- ▶ **Our heritage** – we've been providing music exams since 1877. Today, over half a million people across the world take a Trinity assessment every year
- ▶ **Our choice of assessments** – our wide range of music assessments means that every student will find one that suits them, however they are learning and whatever their chosen musical style
- ▶ **The flexibility in our exams** – every performer is an individual, so we develop exams that give candidates opportunities to play to their strengths and express themselves
- ▶ **Our examiners** – our examiners are friendly and supportive, making sure that every candidate has the opportunity to perform to their very best
- ▶ **Our commitment to performance** – we create opportunities for our students to perform wherever we can
- ▶ **Recognition** – our exams are internationally recognised and accredited by education authorities across the world, giving them currency for our candidates

Music portfolio

Qualifications

Trinity's music portfolio includes assessments for students at all levels and in a range of musical styles. We develop our syllabuses through extensive research and discussion involving teachers, examiners, students and specialist musicians.

Trinity College London offers:

- ▶ **Grade assessments** – from Initial to Grade 8, the exams include performance, technical work and supporting tests
- ▶ **Certificate assessments** – at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced level, a performance-based assessment put together by candidates
- ▶ **Diploma assessments** – professional qualifications for advanced musicians

Support for teachers

At the heart of Trinity College London's activity in music education is the belief that working with and supporting teachers is the key to making sure that our assessments and resources are effective. We provide two types of support for teachers:

- ▶ specific support to prepare candidates for our assessments
- ▶ more general teacher development – working with an international network of education institutions, we provide a range of resources and qualification opportunities for teachers. The foundation for this is SoundEd CPD, our new online continuing professional development programme, developed in partnership with The Open University.

Publications

Trinity publishes a wide range of material to support preparation for Trinity assessments. This includes:

- ▶ Repertoire books, CD recordings and practice material for technical work and supporting tests – available through local retailers and the Trinity online shop www.trinitycollege.co.uk/shop. Some are also available as digital downloads
- ▶ Online continuing professional development for teachers, including syllabus support and other useful resources – available on Trinity's teacher support website www.trinitycollege.co.uk/support
- ▶ Rock & Pop downloads – available at www.trinityrock.com



Grades

Trinity's graded music exams start at Initial level and go up to Grade 8. They give musicians of all ages a progressive learning framework in which to develop their musical skills and evaluate their progress.

The exams give students the chance to play to their strengths – while there is a basic structure of Pieces, Supporting Tests and Technical Work, the structure is flexible and designed to reflect real musical understanding.

Graded exams are available for:

- ▶ Classical and Jazz
- ▶ Rock & Pop
- ▶ Musical Theatre
- ▶ Music Theory

Classical and Jazz

Our Classical and Jazz grades are available for a comprehensive range of instruments. Full details of the exams can be found in our Grade syllabuses:

- ▶ Brass
- ▶ Piano
- ▶ Electronic Keyboard & Organ
- ▶ Guitar: Classical & Plectrum
- ▶ Singing
- ▶ Strings: Bowed Strings & Harp
- ▶ Woodwind
- ▶ Jazz Woodwind
- ▶ Percussion

Trinity graded exams offer choice and flexibility, suiting different teaching and learning styles and allowing musicians to demonstrate their individual strengths. The exam structure comprises Pieces, Technical Work and Supporting Tests.



Pieces

Our extensive, specifically developed repertoire choices range from traditional to more modern pieces, covering a wide spectrum of musical styles including classical, popular, jazz and contemporary. Candidates play a selection of pieces in their exam, and may substitute one prescribed piece with their own original composition.

In all of the grades, our examiners use the same criteria to mark pieces:

- ▶ Accuracy and Fluency
- ▶ Technical Facility
- ▶ Communication and Interpretation

Technical Work

The Technical Work for each syllabus has been designed to develop important skills specific to the instrument. Options in the Technical Work section include Scales & Arpeggios, and Technical Studies/Exercises or Orchestral Extracts.

Supporting Tests

For Initial to Grade 5 exams, candidates choose two out of four Supporting Tests for their exam: Sight Reading, Aural, Improvisation or Musical Knowledge. From Grade 6, Sight Reading becomes compulsory and candidates can choose between Aural and Improvisation.

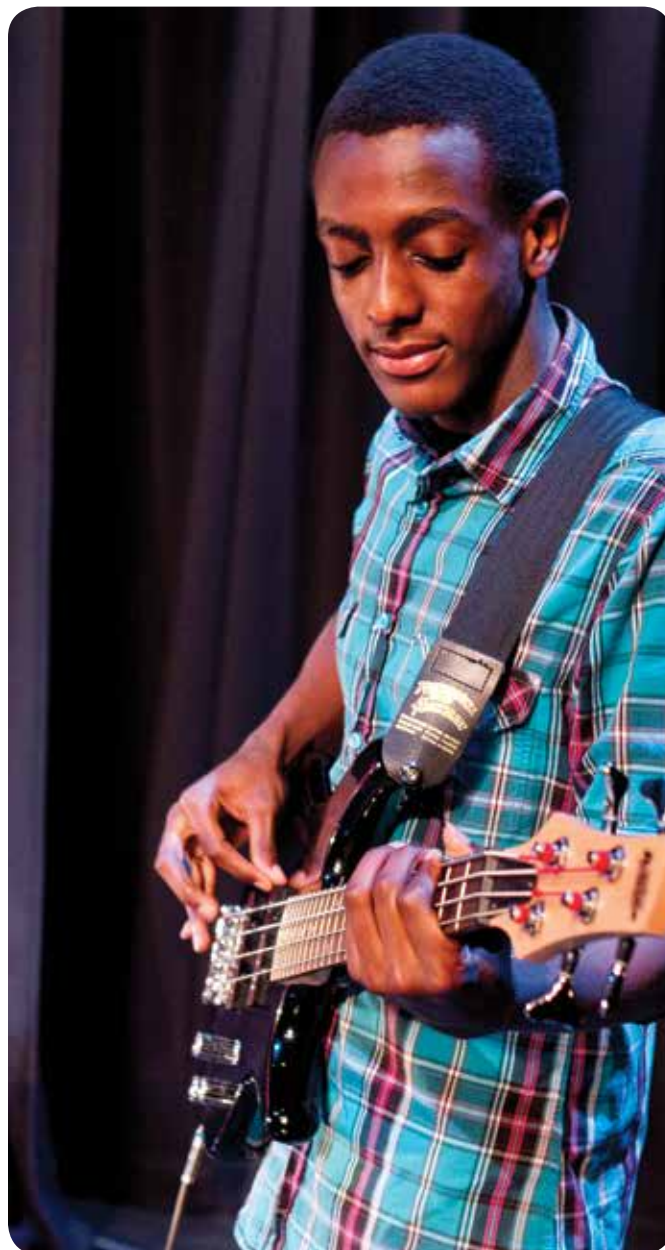
Rock & Pop

Our Rock & Pop exams are also available from Initial to Grade 8. Our syllabus reflects the way rock and pop musicians learn, so the emphasis of the exam is on performance.

- ▶ Exams for Bass, Drums, Guitar, Keyboards and Vocals
- ▶ For musicians who play by ear as well as those who read music
- ▶ For self-taught musicians as well as those taking lessons
- ▶ Large choice of music, all drawn from the best rock and pop songs of the last half-century
- ▶ Candidates can include their own choice of song or a song they have written or arranged
- ▶ Session skills that musicians need – Playback or Improvising
- ▶ Songbooks with everything you need for your exam – the sheet music for six songs, a CD with demo and backing tracks, performance notes, and guidance on session skills. The songs are also available as individual download bundles

In our Rock & Pop grades, songs are assessed against these criteria:

- ▶ Fluency and Musical Detail
- ▶ Technical Control
- ▶ Communication and Style





Musical Theatre

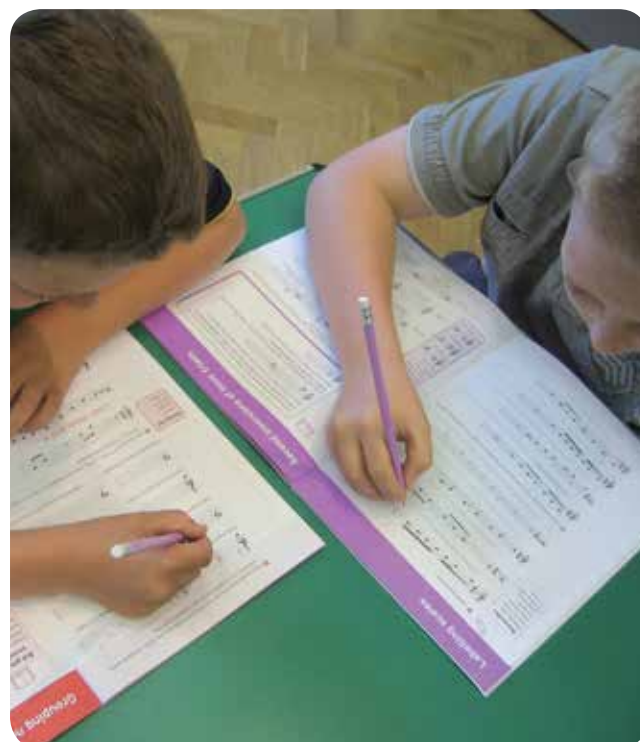
Musical Theatre is one of the fastest growing areas of interest in the dramatic arts. Trinity's Musical Theatre grades are available for individuals, pairs and groups. They examine three disciplines – singing, acting and dance/movement – through an integrated performance.

The requirements and mark scheme are different for each grade. All the details can be found in the Musical Theatre and Performance Arts syllabus, available on Trinity's website at www.trinitycollege.co.uk

Theory of Music

Grades 1 to 8 in Theory of Music provide a comprehensive and carefully progressive approach to the technical language of music. Although Trinity does not require candidates taking practical exams to have passed theory exams, these Theory grades will give candidates musical knowledge that will enhance and support their practical studies.

We publish a workbook for each grade that covers the syllabus, with information for teachers, hints for candidates and a sample exam paper. There are also interactive examples of theory tests on our virtual learning environment at www.trinitycollege.co.uk/support



Certificates

Solo certificates

Trinity's certificates are for musicians who wish to focus on performance. Every certificate assessment is structured as a mini-recital. Candidates devise their own programme of a specified length from a wide repertoire list.

Certificates are available for a wide variety of instruments.

There are three levels of certificate:

- ▶ **Foundation Certificate** – programme duration 8-10 minutes, equivalent to Grade 3
- ▶ **Intermediate Certificate** – programme duration 15-20 minutes, equivalent to Grade 5
- ▶ **Advanced Certificate** – programme duration 25-30 minutes, equivalent to Grade 8

Musical Theatre certificates

Trinity's Performance Certificates in Musical Theatre focus on performance – they don't include an assessed component of discussion or impromptu work such as sight reading or improvisation.

These certificates are particularly useful for candidates taking grades who might want to consolidate their performance skills before moving on to the next grade.

Ensemble and Choral certificates

Ensembles can take certificates at all three levels. Any group of two or more players and/or singers can take a certificate.

There are no repertoire lists for ensemble assessments, so ensembles create their own programmes choosing pieces in line with the guidance for solo certificates.

Each part may be played by one player, as in chamber music, or by more than one player, as in a large choir singing a four-part piece.

Rock & Pop Group certificates

Performance-based Group exams are available for bands at three levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. Bands can consist of anything from two members to the full line-up of bass, drums, guitar, keyboards and vocals. From Initial to Grade 5 there is at least one song in the books that is common to each instrument at the same grade, so musicians can learn their parts individually with the backing tracks, and then come together to play as a band.

At Foundation and Intermediate levels bands will perform a set which will include the group song from the relevant graded songbook (Grade 3 for Foundation and Grade 5 for Intermediate). The rest of the set is free choice, and at Advanced level the entire set is free choice. Bands can include their own original songs or cover versions of songs to demonstrate their unique sound and identity.

More information about our Rock & Pop Group exams is available at www.trinityrock.com



Professional development

Diplomas

The range of Trinity's music diplomas reflects the breadth of the professional music world. Embracing all musical styles and cultures, these qualifications provide the variety and choice to appeal to all areas of the music profession.

We offer professional diplomas in four areas:

- ▶ Performance
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Theory
- ▶ Composition

Diplomas are available at three levels:

- ▶ Associate (ATCL, AMusTCL)
- ▶ Licentiate (LTCL, LMusTCL)
- ▶ Fellowship (FTCL, FMusTCL)

SoundEd CPD

SoundEd CPD is a continuing professional development programme for music teachers, developed by Trinity College London and The Open University. Delivered through a virtual learning environment, teachers can use SoundEd CPD to:

- ▶ engage with online modules
- ▶ access and download teaching resources
- ▶ access syllabus support and guidance, including interactive syllabus guides
- ▶ discuss and share ideas with Trinity and other teachers
- ▶ download articles written by people across the music sector.

www.trinitycollege.co.uk/support

Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators

In 2013 a new qualification is being introduced – the Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators (CME), developed by Arts Council England working with Creative and Cultural Skills and the UK music education sector. Trinity is one of two organisations delivering this exciting new qualification.

The CME is relevant to all musicians working with young people in music education, regardless of musical genre and where they are in their careers.

It is a flexible qualification, containing a number of units supporting the development of musical understanding and skills. The CME will support inspirational and motivational learning, developing the skills of children and young people.





Trinity exams – from syllabus to certificate

Before the exam

Finding out about the exam

Our syllabuses contain detailed information about each exam, including:

- ▶ exam structure
- ▶ lists of pieces
- ▶ how the exam is assessed
- ▶ information about Technical Work and Supporting Tests
- ▶ practical information about instruments
- ▶ information about the exam day

All of our syllabuses are available on our website at www.trinitycollege.co.uk

Choosing pieces

Trinity selects repertoire for each exam carefully, making sure that each piece presents an appropriate musical and technical challenge, while giving candidates a wide enough choice to find music that expresses their individual musical personality.

For certain instruments, we've produced CDs of our pieces and these can help candidates make their choice. These are available in the repertoire books or from our online shop www.trinitycollege.co.uk/shop

When candidates have chosen pieces for their exam, they can find the sheet music in our online shop using our 'Trinity Syllabus Search'.

Exam day

- ▶ Candidates should arrive at least 15 minutes before the time of their appointment
- ▶ Candidates should bring their appointment form to the exam, making sure that details about their pieces, technical work and supporting tests are all correct
- ▶ Candidates are responsible for tuning their own instruments, but up to and including Grade 5, the teacher or accompanist may help with the tuning
- ▶ Candidates can spend a few moments warming up – singing or playing a few notes – to get used to the acoustics of the exam room. Rock & Pop candidates will be given an opportunity for a sound check before the exam starts
- ▶ For Grade, Certificate, ATCL and LTCL exams there will normally be one examiner. FTCL exams will normally be conducted by two examiners



After the exam

The report form

Candidates will receive the report form shortly after their exam. The report form gives details of the examiner's assessment of the chosen repertoire, technical work and tests, based on the assessment criteria.

The certificate

Successful Trinity candidates should receive their certificate within six to eight weeks of taking the exam. The certificate shows the date, exam centre, subject and level achieved by the candidate. If requested, it can also show the name of the school and teacher.

Each candidate performing in an ensemble will receive a certificate showing their name and the name of the group.



Tips for teachers and candidates

Tips for candidates – exam day

- ▶ It's a good idea to warm up at home before you set out for the exam centre
- ▶ Make sure you arrive at the exam centre in plenty of time
- ▶ Take a few moments before the exam to think your way through your programme so you're ready for each part of your exam
- ▶ Make sure you bring original sheet music or downloads to your exam – remember that photocopying music is illegal (apart from for page turns)
- ▶ Make sure that your appointment form has all of your options ticked so that the examiner knows exactly what you'll be doing
- ▶ Don't forget to bring any extra equipment you might need, such as extra reeds or strings
- ▶ Don't worry about feeling nervous – even the most experienced musicians feel nervous before they play. Think about the exam as an exciting opportunity to give a performance
- ▶ Make sure your instrument is in tune before you start the exam – if your exam is Grade 5 or lower, a teacher or accompanist can help you with this
- ▶ Don't let the odd wrong note put you off your stride – the examiner is assessing your whole performance





Tips for teachers

- Remember to check the online versions of each syllabus. This will always be the most up to date
- Our Discover Trinity workshops give teachers a chance to meet Trinity's music team and find out about our exams
- You'll find syllabus support, our continuing professional development programme (SoundEd CPD) and many other useful resources on our teacher support website at www.trinitycollege.co.uk/support
- Our local representatives are there to help – they'll be able to advise you and answer your questions about the exams
- If you have a candidate with special needs, remember to complete the special needs form at the time of applying for the exam
- Before the exam, it's a good idea to set up a mock exam room to give your students an idea of what to expect on exam day
- Your candidates will never have to wait too long for their results – they'll receive their report forms shortly after their Trinity exam



Contact us

For further information about
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