

FOR TEACHERS

REAL SONGS.
REAL SKILLS.
REAL PROGRESS.

**THE EXAM THAT PUTS
PERFORMANCE FIRST.**

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

ROCK
& **POP**

TRINITYROCK.COM



REAL SONGS. REAL SKILLS. REAL PROGRESS.

Our Rock & Pop exams for bass, drums, guitar, keyboards and vocals reflect the way musicians want to learn. Learners perform a set list that lets them showcase their own unique musical style and skills, and they get the opportunity to gain a valuable qualification that's recognised and respected around the world.

REAL SONGS

Teach your students to play the music they love, or introduce them to new genres, with our huge range of hit songs spanning all contemporary styles. They can choose their set list from the eight songs in our graded songbooks, play a song of their own choice, or perform a song they've written themselves.

REAL SKILLS

Help your students develop the improvisation and playback session skills that professional musicians need. They can showcase their technical skills in a real-life context through our technical focus songs, and demonstrate their ability to deliver a compelling live performance.

REAL PROGRESS

Encourage your students to achieve their goals with an externally regulated and internationally recognised qualification. Trust the 140-year heritage Trinity brings to contemporary music, and benefit from marks and comments on your students' performances from Trinity's expert examiners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✔ Song lists with hundreds of well-known songs from artists including Adele, David Bowie, The Beatles, and many more
- ✔ Songbooks each featuring eight songs, performance tips, background information, and downloadable backing and demo tracks
- ✔ A range of digital resources to support your teaching available at trinityrock.com/practice-room
- ✔ The Play Trinity Rock & Pop app which allows your students to practise in the way that best suits them
- ✔ Individual syllabus booklets for each instrument to get you straight to the most relevant information

REAL SONGS.

Our exams allow your students to demonstrate their individual musical style playing songs they know and love, and allow you to introduce them to new music you think they'll enjoy. Our song lists feature a wide range of well-known rock and pop music for you to explore together.

Every song has been carefully selected by our team of industry experts to encourage learners to develop important skills and techniques. Songs from hundreds of artists are included, from David Bowie to Daft Punk, from Adele to AC/DC, and from The Beatles to The Black Keys.

'THEY ACTUALLY USE REAL SONGS, SO THE STUDENTS CAN PLAY THEM IN CONTEXT AND THAT MOTIVATES THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE ACTUALLY PLAYING SOMETHING THEY'VE HEARD BEFORE.'

NEIL CORNWELL, GUITAR TEACHER



THE SONGBOOKS

You can access everything you need to prepare your students for the performance part of the exam in our graded songbooks. Our Rock & Pop books are available for Initial to Grade 8 and each includes eight songs with performance hints and tips. There's also useful background information so you can explore the story behind, and techniques used in, the songs.

Each song also comes with a downloadable backing and demo track recorded by top industry session musicians, making it easy for students to practise in between lessons.

'I LIKE THE FACT THAT WE CAN OPEN UP THE CONTEXTUAL SIDE AS WELL.'

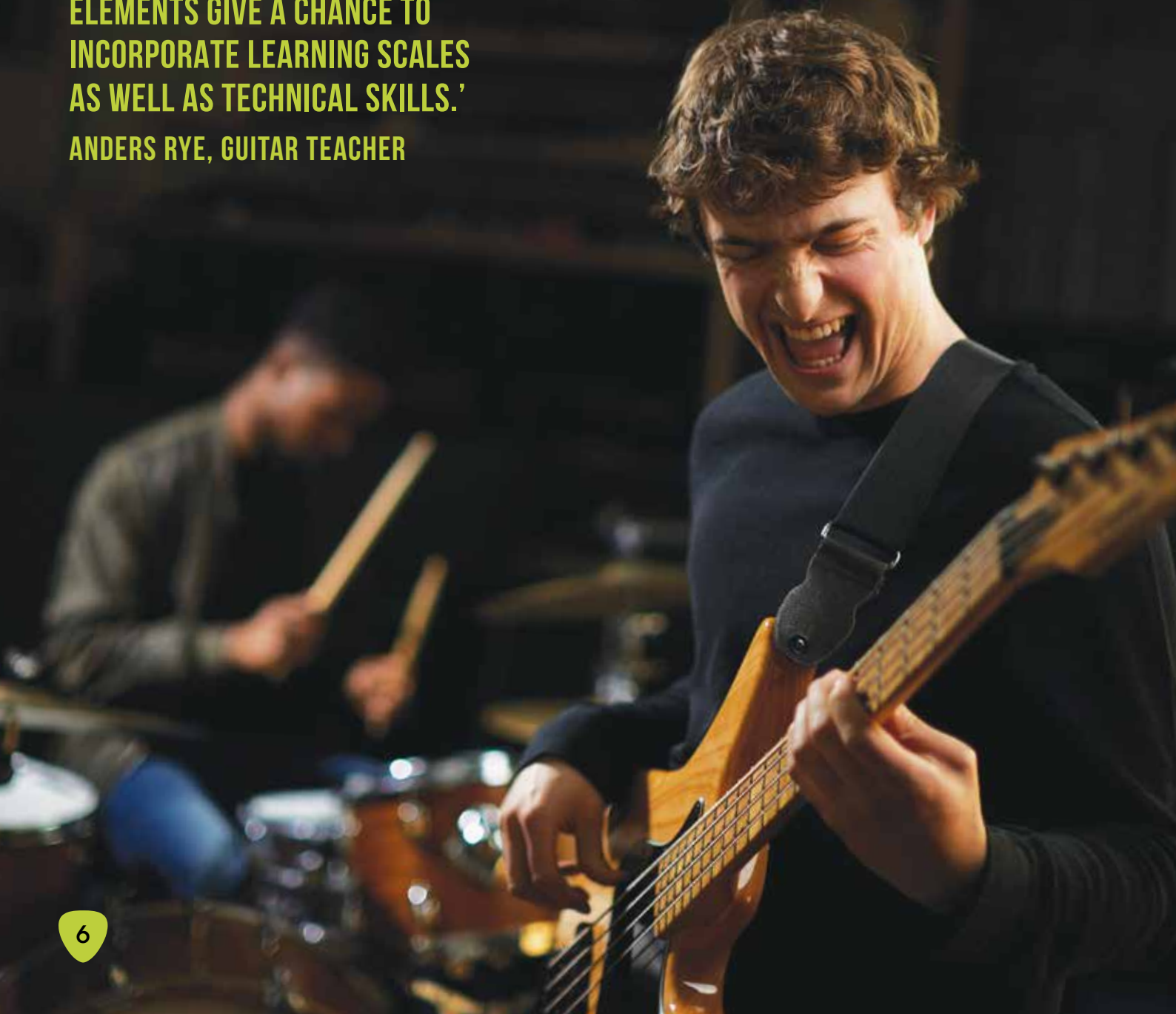
**JAMES SEDGE, DRUMS TEACHER
AND MUSIC CENTRE DIRECTOR**

**'YOU'RE ACTUALLY PLAYING REAL
SONGS AND YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT
THE ARTIST, THE HISTORY AND THE
IMPACT THE SONG HAD.'**

GABRIEL, GRADE 7 DRUMMER



**'THEY GIVE A GOOD STRUCTURE TO
LEARNING. THE IMPROVISATION
ELEMENTS GIVE A CHANCE TO
INCORPORATE LEARNING SCALES
AS WELL AS TECHNICAL SKILLS.'**
ANDERS RYE, GUITAR TEACHER



REAL SKILLS.

Learners play a set list of three tracks in their exam, chosen from our song lists. Each song has been specially arranged for the grade so your students can prove their level of technique and musicianship through their exam performance.

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Your students can personalise their set list to demonstrate their individuality and creativity. If there's a song they love that's not on our song lists they have the option of performing it as their second song, or they can pick from a range of songs made available from the previous syllabus. Learners can showcase their songwriting skills by choosing to perform a song they've written, and they can accompany themselves, or be accompanied by you or another musician.

The third song they'll play is a technical focus song, chosen from the songbook for the grade. This song focuses on two specific technical skills which run throughout the song, allowing your students to demonstrate these techniques seamlessly in their performance. They're able to get more marks for their performance of this song.

SESSION SKILLS FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Teach your students how to improvise over a track and play music they've never seen or heard before through the session skills part of our exams. Your students can also develop their skills beyond the grades with industry advice on performing live, writing songs and much more in our Practice Room resources created by professional musicians.

EXAM STRUCTURE AND MARK SCHEME

	Maximum marks
SONG 1	25
A song chosen from the current graded Trinity songbook, played to a backing track	
SONG 2	25
Either a different song chosen from the current graded Trinity songbook	
or a song from the additional Trinity arrangements at trinityrock.com/extra-songs	
or an own-choice song	
or a song composed by the candidate	
If song 2 is an own-choice song or one composed by the candidate it may:	
✔ be unaccompanied	
✔ be played to a backing track (which can be pre-recorded by the candidate)	
✔ include added vocals, performed live by the candidate*	
✔ include an accompaniment played or sung live by another musician	
SESSION SKILLS	20
Either playback or improvising	
SONG 3	30
A technical focus song chosen from the current graded Trinity songbook, containing specific technical elements, played to a backing track	
TOTAL	100

*Vocals syllabus: Song 2 may include a live self-played accompaniment on any instrument

REAL PROGRESS.

Help your students realise their potential and achieve their goals with a highly respected qualification from the only exam board that's been providing graded music exams for more than 140 years. Trinity brings all that experience and expertise to rock and pop music to give you syllabuses you can trust.

GAIN VALUABLE FEEDBACK

Our examiners come from all corners of the music industry. They all work professionally as musicians and have a deep understanding of rock and pop music and technique. Your students will get a report with detailed feedback about their exam performance that you can use to shape your future teaching plans, and help your students to continue to improve and develop.

RECOGNITION

Learners can gain a qualification that proves their skills and dedication. Our Rock & Pop exams are internationally recognised and, just like classical music exams, students can get UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) points at Grades 6-8.





'TO USE THE SYLLABUS AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE GRADED EXAMS, AND TO GO UP THROUGH THE GRADES, GIVES YOU A FOCAL POINT, AND A DIRECTION AND A PATH TO TRAVEL DOWN.'

JULIE PARKER, KEYBOARDS TEACHER



BASS



Our Bass exams introduce learners to the right skills at the right time, developing the important techniques they need at each grade. Beginning with basic positions, picking and damping techniques, they'll then move on to slapped and pulled notes, bends and slides, and harmonics.

Learners can explore syncopation in Coldplay's 'Yellow', palm muting using the pick in Paramore's 'Misery Business', and fast articulation in Queens of the Stone Age's 'No One Knows'.

DRUMS

Rock & Pop Drums exams take your students through key playing skills step-by-step, beginning with basic grooves in a range of styles with different time signatures, tempos and strokes, solo breaks and fills, and moving on to instrumental techniques including paradiddles, flams, drags, ruffs, rim shots and ratamacues.

They can learn about trashy hi hat in Blur's 'Song 2', time changes in 'Alive' by Pearl Jam, and syncopation and swinging in Joe Cocker's 'With a Little Help from My Friends'.



GUITAR



Our Guitar exams help learners build up their playing skills as they move through the grades. Starting with basic chords and positions, picking and damping, they'll then move on to hammer-ons and pull-offs, bends, slides and harmonics.

Your students can explore picking precision in 'I Can't Explain' by The Who, riff playing and bends in The Beatles' 'Day Tripper', and rapid picking and octaves in Foo Fighters' 'Rope'.

KEYBOARDS

Rock & Pop Keyboards exams help your students develop the techniques they need at each grade, introducing them to key skills step-by-step. They'll begin with common chords, simple melodies, and rhythms in different styles and keys, moving on to pedalling techniques, scales passages, improvising and more complex chords.

They can learn about swing rhythm in 'Gold on the Ceiling' by The Black Keys, octave leaps in Sia's 'Chandelier', and the use of the sustain pedal with Pink Floyd's 'The Great Gig in the Sky'.





VOCALS



Our Rock & Pop Vocals exams help learners build up their singing skills as they move through the grades. Starting with singing in different styles and registers, improving their sound and widening their range, they'll then move on to developing techniques such as decorating and improvising.

Your students can explore pick-ups and belting skills in 'Just Looking' by Stereophonics, diction and pitching in Dusty Springfield's 'Son of a Preacher Man', and vocal agility and rapping in Taylor Swift's 'Shake It Off'.

TEACHING ROCK & POP

The Rock & Pop package – from syllabuses, to graded songbooks, to online digital resources – provides you with everything you need to plan lessons that will engage your students and get them excited about the songs they'll be learning, the skills they'll be developing, and the progress they'll be making.



ACCESS ALL AREAS...

THE PRACTICE ROOM

Visit trinityrock.com/practice-room to explore hundreds of teaching and learning resources, including:

- ✔ bite-sized videos featuring professional musicians that include demonstrations of techniques, whole-song performances, music industry advice and syllabus support
- ✔ 'producer's notes' that include background information on songs to increase knowledge of rock and pop
- ✔ articles by musicians, teachers and examiners that include advice on performance, musical styles, developing technique, and careers in the music industry.

PLAY TRINITY ROCK & POP APP

The Play Trinity Rock & Pop practice app puts users in front of their own digital mixing desk, giving them the tools to master their performance. Having bought and downloaded Rock & Pop songs directly to their phone or tablet, users can:

- ✔ control the mix
- ✔ come in with a count-in
- ✔ loop a section
- ✔ keep perfect time
- ✔ adjust the speed
- ✔ follow the lyrics.
- ✔ change the pitch

Find out more and download the app for iOS and Android at trinityrock.com/app




**GET THE FULL ROCK & POP EXPERIENCE AT
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Trinity College London
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