

Qualifications

Support for teachers

Publications

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

[www.trinitycollege.com/music](http://www.trinitycollege.com/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 teacher support** – we offer a range of support through face-to-face events and our online learning platform
- ▶ **Recognition** – our certificates have real currency – they are internationally recognised by governments and education authorities across the world

# 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, our instrumental exams include performance, technical work and supporting tests. We also offer written theory exams
- ▶ **certificate assessments** – at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels, these are purely performance-based assessments for soloists or ensembles, designed as a mini-recital
- ▶ **diploma assessments** – professional qualifications for advanced musicians, in performance, teaching, theory and composition

## Support for teachers

At the heart of our 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 support to teachers through:

- ▶ Trinity events: we hold a wide range of teacher support events all over the world.
- ▶ our online learning platform: teachers can access free resources and syllabus support materials and engage in discussion forums at [www.trinitycollege.com/support](http://www.trinitycollege.com/support)



## Publications

Trinity publishes a wide range of materials 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.com/shop](http://www.trinitycollege.com/shop). Some are also available free of charge as digital downloads
- ▶ online continuing professional development for teachers, including syllabus support and other useful resources – available on Trinity's online learning platform [www.trinitycollege.com/support](http://www.trinitycollege.com/support)
- ▶ digital download bundles of the songs in our Rock & Pop songbooks are available at [www.trinityrock.com/downloads](http://www.trinityrock.com/downloads)



# Grades

Trinity's grade exams start at Initial level and go up to Grade 8. They offer choice and flexibility, suiting different teaching styles, and giving 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, technical work and supporting tests, the structure is flexible and designed to reflect real musical understanding. Candidates may also include one of their own compositions in their exam.

Grade exams are available for:

- ▶ classical and jazz
- ▶ rock and 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
- ▶ Electronic Keyboard & Organ
- ▶ Guitar: Classical & Plectrum
- ▶ Jazz Woodwind
- ▶ Percussion
- ▶ Piano
- ▶ Singing
- ▶ Strings: Bowed Strings & Harp
- ▶ Woodwind



## Pieces

Our extensive, specifically developed repertoire choices range from traditional to more modern pieces, covering a wide spectrum of musical styles from around the world 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 award marks for pieces under the following headings:

- ▶ fluency and accuracy
- ▶ 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 specially written exercises and studies, in addition to orchestral extracts and scales and arpeggios.

## 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

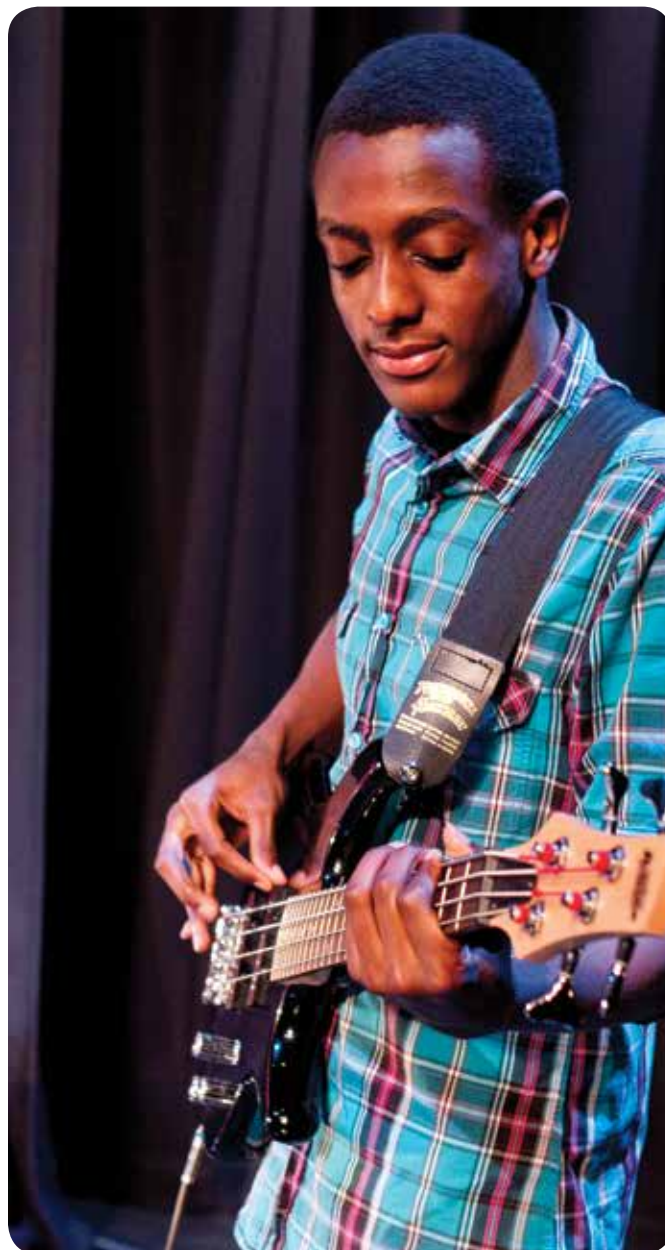
Our Rock & Pop exams are also available from Initial to Grade 8. The syllabus reflects the way rock and pop musicians learn, so the emphasis of the exam is on performance.

- ▶ 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 authentic 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
- ▶ session skills books containing additional example tests for practice

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

- ▶ fluency and musical detail
- ▶ technical control
- ▶ communication and style

More information about our Rock & Pop exams is available at [www.trinityrock.com](http://www.trinityrock.com)







## Theory of music

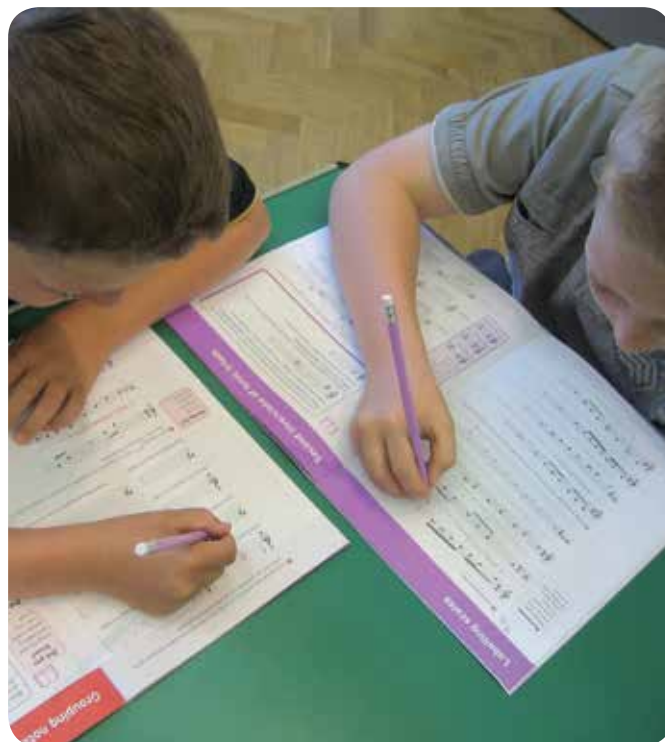
Grades 1 to 8 in theory of music provide a comprehensive and carefully progressive approach to the technical language of music. Although Trinity does not require candidates taking practical exams to have passed theory exams, these theory grades will give candidates musical knowledge that will enhance 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 past papers available on the website, and interactive examples of theory tests on our online learning platform at [www.trinitycollege.com/support](http://www.trinitycollege.com/support)

## 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.com/musicaltheatre](http://www.trinitycollege.com/musicaltheatre)



# Certificates

## Solo certificates

Trinity's certificates are for musicians who wish to focus purely 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, and can include repertoire of their own choice. Certificates are available for a wide variety of instruments.

There are three levels:

- **Foundation Certificate** – programme duration of 8-10 minutes, equivalent to Grade 3
- **Intermediate Certificate** – programme duration of 15-20 minutes, equivalent to Grade 5
- **Advanced Certificate** – programme duration of 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, for example string trios, wind quartets, choirs and more.

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](http://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)

## Trinity CME

Available in the UK, the Trinity Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators (Trinity CME) is designed for music educators who work with children and young people. It's supported by a flexible programme of learning and is offered by a network of Trinity CME centres. Suitable for anyone who works as a music educator with children and young people, it covers how children and young people learn music, planning and facilitating musical learning, and other aspects of teaching including reflective practice, positive behaviour and safeguarding.

## Online learning platform

Developed to support Trinity teachers, our online learning platform provides free access to teaching resources, articles, discussion forums and more. Teachers can develop their skills through our range of professional development resources, learn more about our range of exams and qualifications, and engage with our online community of educators.

- ▶ Syllabus support – get up-to-date information about our syllabuses and try our interactive guide to the improvisation test.
- ▶ Resource library – access free materials for your teaching practice and professional development, including articles, guidance materials and teacher activities.
- ▶ Community – engage in our discussion forum for teachers where you can ask questions and share your ideas and experiences of teaching music as well as specific aspects of Trinity's syllabuses.

Find out more at [www.trinitycollege.com/support](http://www.trinitycollege.com/support)







# 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.com/music](http://www.trinitycollege.com/music)

### Choosing pieces

Trinity selects repertoire for each exam carefully, making sure that each piece presents appropriate musical and technical challenges, 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.com/shop](http://www.trinitycollege.com/shop)

Once 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 often 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 overall performance, based on the assessment criteria.

### The certificate

Successful 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 at the time of enrolment, 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 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 may 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 latest online version of each syllabus. This will always be the most up to date
- ▶ Our Discover Trinity workshops give teachers a chance to meet members of Trinity's music team and find out about our exams
- ▶ You'll find syllabus support and many other useful resources on our teacher support website at **[www.trinitycollege.com/support](http://www.trinitycollege.com/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 provision form at the time of applying for the exam
- ▶ Before the exam, it's a good idea to run a mock exam 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 Trinity music  
exams, please contact:  
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[www.trinitycollege.com](http://www.trinitycollege.com)  
[www.trinityrock.com](http://www.trinityrock.com)

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