

FOR STUDENTS

**REAL SONGS.**  
**REAL SKILLS.**  
**REAL PROGRESS.**

**THE EXAM THAT PUTS YOUR  
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 you make music. Perform a set list that showcases your own unique musical style and skills, and gain a valuable qualification that's recognised and respected around the world.

## REAL SONGS

Play the music you love with our huge range of hit songs spanning all contemporary styles. Choose your set list from the eight songs in our graded songbooks, play a song of your own choice, or perform one you've written yourself.

## REAL SKILLS

Develop the improvisation and playback session skills that professional musicians need. Showcase your technical skills in a real-life context through our technical focus songs, and demonstrate your ability to deliver a compelling live performance.

## REAL PROGRESS

Achieve your 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 performance 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 help you get the most out of your Rock & Pop experience available at [trinityrock.com/practice-room](https://trinityrock.com/practice-room)
- ✔ The Play Trinity Rock & Pop app which allows you to practise in the way that best suits you

# REAL SONGS.

Demonstrate your individual musical style playing songs you know and love. Our song lists feature a wide range of well-known rock and pop music to choose from.

Every song has been carefully selected to allow you to showcase your 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.

**“IT’S REALLY NICE HAVING THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE WHAT YOU LIKE. IT’S ALLOWED ME TO GET INTO NEW STUFF AND HAS HELPED ME DEVELOP AS A MUSICIAN.”**

**JOSHUA, GRADE 7 GUITARIST**

## THE TEAM

We worked with an international team of experts, including professional musicians, producers, educators, sound engineers, publishers and composers, to develop the Rock & Pop syllabuses and resources. The result is an exam experience, including advice from professionals, that helps you develop the skills you need.



## THE SONGBOOKS

You can access everything you need to prepare 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.

## BE PART OF THE BAND

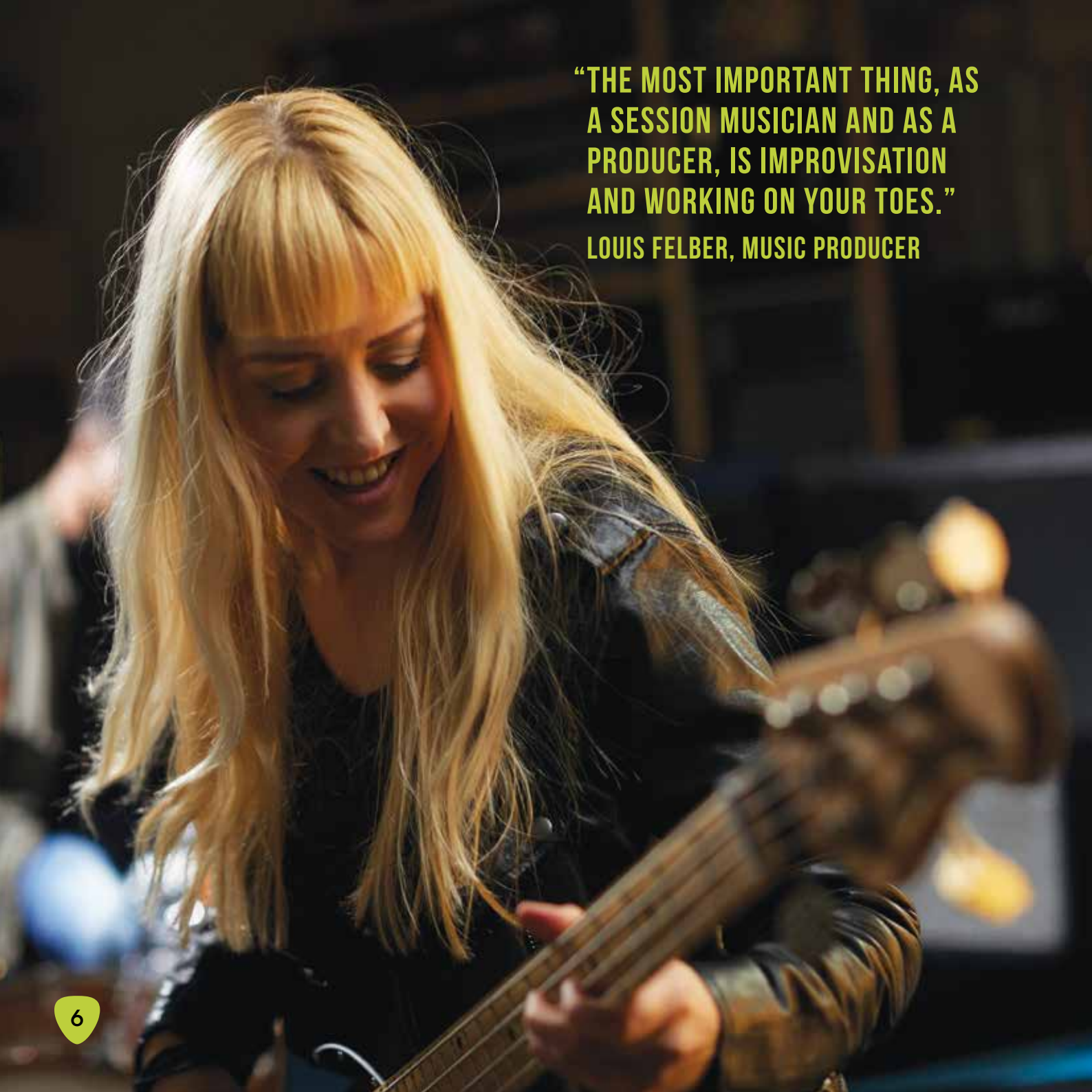
Each song comes with a demo and backing track recorded by top industry session musicians, produced professionally in a recording studio. Practise wherever suits you by downloading the track to your phone, tablet or computer.



**“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**



A woman with long, straight blonde hair and bangs is smiling while playing a dark-colored electric bass guitar. She is wearing a black leather jacket. The background is a dimly lit studio with various pieces of equipment and warm lighting. The text is overlaid in the top right corner.

**“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, AS  
A SESSION MUSICIAN AND AS A  
PRODUCER, IS IMPROVISATION  
AND WORKING ON YOUR TOES.”**  
**LOUIS FELBER, MUSIC PRODUCER**

# REAL SKILLS.

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

## MAKE THE EXAM YOUR OWN

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

The third song you'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, so you can demonstrate these techniques seamlessly in your performance. You're able to get more marks for your performance of this song.

## DEVELOP MUSIC INDUSTRY SKILLS

Gain the professional session skills musicians need with our playback (sight reading and/or listening) and improvising tests. Develop your 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
<b>SONG 1</b>	<b>25</b>
A song chosen from the current graded Trinity songbook, played to a backing track	
<b>SONG 2</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Either</b> a different song chosen from the current graded Trinity songbook	
<b>Or</b> a song from the additional Trinity arrangements at <a href="http://trinityrock.com/extra-songs">trinityrock.com/extra-songs</a>	
<b>Or</b> an own-choice song	
<b>Or</b> a song you've composed	
If song 2 is an own-choice song or one you've composed it may:	
✔ Be unaccompanied	
✔ Be played to a backing track (which can be pre-recorded by you)	
✔ Include added vocals, performed by you live*	
✔ Include an accompaniment played or sung live by another musician	
<b>SESSION SKILLS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Either</b> playback <b>or</b> improvising	
<b>SONG 3</b>	<b>30</b>
A technical focus song chosen from the current graded Trinity songbook, containing specific technical elements, played to a backing track	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

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



# REAL PROGRESS.

Achieve your 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. You'll get a report with detailed feedback about your exam performance that will help you to continue to grow and develop as an artist.

## **HAVE YOUR SKILLS RECOGNISED**

You can gain a qualification that proves your skills and dedication and helps set you apart from the rest. Our Rock & Pop exams are internationally recognised and, just like classical music exams, you can get UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) points at Grades 6-8.







**“IF YOU WANT TO PERFORM, AND IF  
YOU WANT TO GET SOME REALLY GOOD  
FEEDBACK AND RECOGNITION FOR  
WHAT YOU DO, THEN A ROCK & POP  
EXAM IS FOR YOU.”**

**CHRIS WALTERS, ROCK & POP TEAM**



# BASS



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

You 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 you 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.

You 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 you build up your playing skills as you move through the grades. Starting with basic chords and positions, picking and damping, you'll then move on to hammer-ons and pull-offs, bends, slides and harmonics.

You 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 you develop the techniques you need at each grade, introducing you to key skills step-by-step. You'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.

You 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 you build up your singing skills as you move through the grades. Starting with singing in different styles and registers, improving your sound and widening your range, you'll then move on to developing techniques such as decorating and improvising.

You 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'.





# ACCESS ALL AREAS...

## THE PRACTICE ROOM

Visit [trinityrock.com/practice-room](https://trinityrock.com/practice-room) to explore hundreds of 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 you in front of your own digital mixing desk, giving you the tools to master your performance. Having bought and downloaded Rock & Pop songs directly to your phone or tablet, you 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](https://trinityrock.com/app)

**GET THE FULL ROCK & POP EXPERIENCE AT  
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