

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD SAMPLE BOOKLET

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A selection of pieces and technical work for Trinity College London exams 2019-2022

> HANDEL MORTON OPLIN

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Trinity's Electronic Keyboard Syllabus 2019-2022

Develop specific skills

Help your students build the specific skills used by keyboardists, including playing with a range of instrument voices in time with accompaniment patterns, and developing a wider understanding of common scales, modes and chord progressions. Encourage them to explore the technical possibilities of their instrument, and develop skills that are also relevant for learning piano and Rock & Pop keyboards.

Explore varied repertoire

Discover pieces across a variety of styles and genres – including popular classics, show tunes, film themes, jazz, folk and world music – and help your students develop technique through performing a wide range of music.

Benefit from a range of support

Use a syllabus and supporting books created in consultation with electronic keyboard specialists, and access digital support resources specific to your electronic keyboard teaching.

What's new?

- New performance repertoire at all grades covers a wide range of styles, including popular classics, show tunes, film themes, jazz, folk and world music
- Restructured technical work: all candidates (except at Initial) perform a newly added keyboard exercise, which helps to develop a range of skills from awareness of chords and chord progressions to arpeggio playing and agility, with all candidates choosing either revised scales & chord knowledge or brand new technical exercises
- A new sequencing exercise option at Grades 6-8 provides an opportunity to explore the technological features of the instrument
- New graded exam books for Initial to Grade 8 feature between 8 and 10 specially arranged pieces and original compositions, full technical work requirements for the grade and accompanying audio downloads
- The new Sound at Sight: Grades 6-8 book offers a range of sight reading pieces, providing invaluable practice and exam preparation material for keyboard players at the higher grades
- A refreshed syllabus format makes the requirements for each grade easy to understand for teachers and learners
- Online digital support resources provide teachers and learners with support and advice on repertoire and technique: trinitycollege.com/keyboard-resources

Recognition and UCAS points

Trinity College London is an international exam board regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in England, CCEA Regulation in Northern Ireland and by Qualifications Wales. Various arrangements are in place with governmental education authorities worldwide.

In the UK, Grades 6-8 are eligible for UCAS points for those applying to colleges and universities.

Contributors

Trinity worked with a team of expert consultants to develop the new Electronic Keyboard syllabus:

Peter Buckby is the director of Innovation Music, a music school network providing instrumental, vocal and theory lessons on the Yorkshire Coast. A keen keyboard player and teacher with over 16 years' teaching experience, he has also delivered lectures for the University of Hull in creative music technology and spoken at conferences and events on the benefits of music-making to learners of all ages.

Joanna Clarke is a Trinity College London examiner and currently their adviser for electronic keyboard. She runs her own teaching practice in the Midlands and has been involved with the electronic keyboard syllabus for a number of years, giving workshops to teachers and examiners both in the UK and abroad.

Nancy Litten is a musician and teacher, and her many roles and achievements have included setting up a keyboard orchestra for Kent, founding and directing National Electronic Keyboard Courses from 2005-2012, and adjudicating for the British and International Association of Festivals.

Victoria Proudler is a specialist in music teaching and is a director of music in Sheffield. She has been a music examiner for Trinity for many years and has arranged and composed many pieces for piano and electronic keyboard. Victoria has a wide range of performing experience, including performing on BBC radio, and has presented workshops for both examiners and teachers.

Andrew Smith is based in Manchester where he works as a teacher, arranger and accompanist. His teaching positions took him to Egypt and Iceland before he returned to the UK and joined Trinity College London as an examiner in 2004.

The graded exam books that support the syllabus were put together by Trinity College London Press, with Christopher Hussey arranging many of the pieces:

Christopher Hussey is a composer, arranger, audio producer and educational author. His original music has been performed internationally and has been shortlisted in BASCA's British Composer Awards and recorded by the Czech Philharmonic Wind Ensemble. As an orchestrator and arranger, he has produced many scores for musical theatre, TV and concert halls, and has over 1,800 published arrangements ranging from choral pop to rock classics for jazz piano.

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The exam at a glance

About the exam

PIECES 66 marks Choose three pieces each worth 22 marks.



TECHNICAL WORK 14 marks

A keyboard exercise (except at Initial), followed by *either* scales & chord knowledge *or* technical exercises.

SUPPORTING TESTS 20 marks

A combination of two tests from sight reading, aural, improvisation and musical knowledge, depending on grade and candidate choice.

Pieces

Candidates can express their musical identity by choosing pieces from our varied repertoire lists, while flexible performance options allow them to perform to their strengths. These options include playing an own composition, and playing an own choice piece or their own arrangement at Grades 6-8.

Technical work

This section of the exam supports the development of technical skills by assessing candidates' performance in a range of technical work options. To help develop skills specific to electronic keyboard, Trinity's technical work includes a compulsory keyboard exercise (except at Initial), designed to develop awareness of chords and chord progressions and arpeggio playing and agility; exercises that develop skills such as knowledge of keyboard functions; and an optional sequencing exercise at Grades 6-8.

Supporting tests

Trinity's supporting tests encourage the development of the broader musical skills of sight reading, aural, improvisation and musical knowledge. The choice offered to candidates in this part of the exam allows them to demonstrate their own musical skills in different ways.

Exam structure and mark scheme

Initial-Grade 5	Maximum marks	Grades 6-8	Maximum marks
PIECE 1	22	PIECE 1	22
PIECE 2	22	PIECE 2	22
PIECE 3	22	PIECE 3	22
TECHNICAL WORK	14	TECHNICAL WORK	14
 Keyboard exercise (Grades 1-5 o <i>Either</i> scales & chord knowledge or exercises 		 Keyboard exercise <i>Either</i> scales & chord knowledge or exercises 	
SUPPORTING TESTS	20	SUPPORTING TEST 1	10
Any TWO of the following:		Sight reading	
Sight readingAuralImprovisation		SUPPORTING TEST 2	10
Musical knowledge		ONE of the following:	
		AuralImprovisation	
TOTAL	100	TOTAL	100

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Electronic keyboard graded exam books

Trinity's electronic keyboard graded exam books feature a selection of specially arranged pieces and original compositions across a range of styles, as well as the full technical work requirements for the grade, providing teachers and learners with everything they need to prepare for their Trinity electronic keyboard exam.

Lullaby (Wiegenlied)

Rock to the Roll

Little Brown Jug

Pieces



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BRAHMS CLARKE DVOŘÁK EASTBURN WINNER MOZART RODGERS SULLIVAN TRAD. TRAD. VIVALDI

Initial

Grade 1

BEETHOVEN ELGAR LOGGINS SCHUBERT SMITH TRAD. TRAD. TRAD. TRAD. TRAD. TRAD.

Grade 2 BURGMÜLLER

GERSHWIN

HANDEL

HANDEL

LITTEN MERRILL

MOZART SHERMAN

TRAD.

TRAD.

Grade 3

FAULKNER

MORODER

TCHAIKOVSKY

CLARKE

HOLST KANDER

TRAD.

TRAD.

TRAD.

Michael Row the Boat* The Skye Boat Song Spring (from *The Four Seasons*) Pastoral (theme from *Symphony no. 6*) Land of Hope and Glory (Pomp and Circumstance March no. 1) Footloose* Unfinished Symphony (theme from *Symphony no. 8*) Whirling Dervishes Cockles and Mussels

Largo (from Symphony no. 9, 'From the New World')

Voi, che sapete (from The Marriage of Figaro)

Edelweiss (from The Sound of Music)

Little Buttercup (from HMS Pinafore)

English Country Garden Shaker Tune Star of County Down Wild Mountain Thyme

Arabesque in A Minor, op. 100 no. 2 Summertime (from *Porgy and Bess*) Air (from *Water Music*)* Sarabande (from *Suite in D Minor*, HWV 437) Homeward Path Mambo Italiano Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, K. 525 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Charlie Is My Darling Scotland the Brave

Arioso (from *Cantata*, BWV 156) Mediterranean Breeze Arkansas Traveller Jupiter (from *The Planets*) Theme from *New York*, *New York* The NeverEnding Story Dance of the Little Swans (from *Swan Lake*) Farewell to Lochaber The Irish Washerwoman The Sligo Maid*



BADELT/ZIMMER

BEETHOVEN BEETHOVEN BRAHMS JOPLIN LOWRY SHAIMAN SMITH TRAD. WAGNER



Grade 5

DORHAM HANDEL HURWITZ PROUDLER ROSSINI SOUSA STRAUSS II TRAD. TRAD. TRAD.

Grade 6 J S BACH

CHOPIN

JOBIM

TRAD.

MORTON

PROUDLER

Grade 7

J S BACH

GLASS

LITTEN

WHITE/MCKAY/WILLIS (EARTH, WIND & FIRE)

DOWLAND



n



PARRY TRAD. Grade 8

MOZART

CHOPIN GILLESPIE GRAINGER LISZT PAGANINI THISELTON WHELAN WIDOR

He's a Pirate (from Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl) Allegro (theme from Symphony no. 5, 4th movt) Pathétique (theme from Piano Sonata no. 8, 2nd movt) Hungarian Dance no. 5 Weeping Willow Rag How Can I Keep from Singing? You Can't Stop the Beat (from Hairspray) High Wire Wade in the Water* Ride of the Valkyries (from *Die Walküre*)

Blue Bossa* The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (from Solomon) Engagement Party (from La La Land) Twilight Tango The Thieving Magpie (theme from the overture) The Washington Post Voices of Spring Amazing Grace **Deep River** Hardiman the Fiddler

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (from Cantata, BWV 147) Romanze (from Piano Concerto no. 1, op. 11) Flow, My Tears Girl from Ipanema King Porter Stomp Samba Nights Celtic Medley*

September

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565 CROW & FROOM Tomorrow Never Dies* The Poet Acts (from The Hours) Enchantment MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY Wedding March (from A Midsummer Night's Dream) Violin Concerto in G, K. 216 (1st movt) Jerusalem The Contradiction Reel

> Minute Waltz (Waltz in Db Major, op. 64 no. 1) A Night in Tunisia In Dahomey Friska (from Hungarian Rhapsody no. 2) Caprice no. 24 in A Minor (from 24 Caprices for Solo Violin)* Spring Dance Riverdance Toccata (from Symphony for Organ no. 5, op. 42 no. 1)

* Own interpretation piece

Sample pieces – About the pieces

Initial: TRAD. / Michael Row the Boat

This traditional spiritual song gives players the opportunity to present a personal arrangement, with candidates able to choose voices and rhythms, add dynamics, and even vary rhythm and harmony to produce a creative response. This enables them to explore the features of their instrument, reflecting real-life performance scenarios in which players are presented with a lead sheet.

"Own interpretation pieces offer the student a great place to develop their creative skills and add their own ideas to a piece. It's fun here to extend the right-hand rhythm, adding extra notes from the chords and passing notes from the scale of C major, to develop an exciting melody!" Peter Buckby

Grade 2: HANDEL / Sarabande (from Suite in D Minor, HWV 437)

Handel popularised the dance form of the Sarabande in the Baroque period, and today many film and TV adaptations exist of the piece. This arrangement features woodwind and brass voices over the repeating harmonic sequence, and keyboard functions such as fill-in and voice changes. It also includes more complex right-hand writing, including counterpoint and 3-part chords. This builds on the simpler 2-part chords used in earlier grades, enabling the player to produce fuller right-hand textures, as well as simple counter-melodies.

"This piece covers both *legato* playing and requires practice of scalic runs with a consistent fingering to achieve a good performance of the middle section. Though written in $\frac{3}{2}$ time it should be played over a $\frac{3}{4}$ style." Peter Buckby

Grade 4: JOPLIN / Weeping Willow Rag

Originating in America, ragtime is characterised by its jaunty rhythms and whimsical mood. Scott Joplin, a pioneer of the form, wrote more than 40 original ragtime pieces, such as 'Entertainer' and 'Maple Leaf Rag', which share the same style and character. Written in the two-step march style, 'Weeping Willow Rag' features melodic syncopation across barlines, changing harmonies and key changes. While this arrangement assigns the left-hand stride pattern to the keyboard auto-accompaniment, the right hand needs to manoeuvre shifts between chord positions, and handle increased finger independence and a greater range of articulations.

"There are some speedy chord changes in this arrangement – you will need to consider chord voicing carefully and practise moving from chord to chord swiftly and smoothly. This piece also has syncopated rhythms just prior to a chord change – make sure you work on co-ordination, keeping your hands independent, to achieve the correct harmonic rhythm." Peter Buckby

Grade 6: MORTON / King Porter Stomp

"Jelly Roll" Morton was an early jazz musician who combined classical, ragtime and blues with Caribbean influences. Written only two years after 'Weeping Willow Rag', 'King Porter Stomp' came to define the emerging swing style and quickly became a foundation of every big band's repertoire, with many interpretations being recorded over the decades. Morton himself considered the piano as less of a solo instrumental voice and more like an orchestra. Accordingly, this arrangement exploits a variety of jazz voices including vibraphone, jazz flute, and big band brass. Keyboard functions include dual voice and pitch bend to produce a soundscape with fuller colour and authenticity, and multiple accompaniment variations which provide rhythmic energy and variation at this fast, bebop tempo.

"Multiple registrations are required, together with control of those registrations through a pedal so as not to disrupt the flow of the piece. Techniques can differ from instrument to instrument so it is important to understand the features of your keyboard well." Peter Buckby

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Sample pieces

Initial



* Candidates should refer to the current syllabus requirements for own interpretation pieces.

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Sarabande

from Suite in D Minor, HWV 437



Weeping Willow Rag



Play repeats in the exam

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King Porter Stomp

 Voices: Honky-Tonk Piano, Jazz Flute, Jazz Vibraphone, Jazz Guitar, Power Brass (Big Band Brass), Soft Trombones
 Style: Fast Jazz, Big Band Swing
 Split point: Accomp. B²
 Other info: Fingered chord setting to be used. All voices to sound at written pitch (unless otherwise stated). Transposition is as follows: Vibraphone and Guitar to sound Octave -1 throughout
 Pitch bend range = 1; Pitch bend to be used where instructed: ≯ = glide upwards to written notes



















Sample exercises & scales – About the exercises & scales

Initial: Bossa Boy - keyboard functions

This short exercise includes use of both Intro and Ending, and application of a single dynamic change from *mp* to *f*. As with all pieces and exercises, care should also be taken to ensure the accompaniment volume is set so the melody can be heard clearly.

Grade 2: Game Over! - pianistic

This fun miniature piece includes pianistic elements such as bass clef reading, slurring, and simple chromaticism.

Grade 3: Keyboard exercise

This keyboard exercise comprises a scale in the right hand, accompanied by chords in the left hand. It is played with piano voice and auto-accompaniment off, so fully fingered chords must be used. It supports the development of knowledge of the most common chords, together with other relevant performance and technical skills such as bass clef reading, finger dexterity and a sense of pulse. Candidates may select the key used for the exercise from those offered for scales & chord knowledge at the grade – A major and G harmonic minor being available at Grade 3.

Grade 4: Tango Turn - scalic

This exercise is evocative of the tango style with its melancholic mood and distinctive rhythm. It contrasts scalic passages with short arpeggios, building on the exercises at lower grades with changes in scale direction, modulation of key and specific articulation directions.

Grade 4: Ab Lydian - modal scales

The contemporary electronic keyboard player is constantly looking for new sounds and ways to develop language in accompaniments, improvisations and compositions. Exploration of the modes through the grades can open a new palette of sounds across a breadth of musical styles. Commonly used in a major setting to provide added lift, the Lydian scale sounds particularly effective over major 7th chords.

Grade 7: Spanish Melody – sequencing

In this exercise the candidate pre-records the strings and bass lines before the exam and plays only the piano and flute voices as a live performance. Examiners assess the performance of the live part, including synchronisation with the sequenced part. The candidate needs to carefully balance the different parts in order to create an expressive musical performance.

Sample exercises & scales

Initial







Keyboard exercise

A major scale accompanied by LH chords I, IV, $V^{7}\,\text{and}\,vi$



* Chord V may be played in place of V^7 (ie E/G# may be played in place of E^7/G^{\ddagger})

Tango Turn-scalic



Grade 4



Lydian scale on Ab (two octaves)



Spanish Melody - sequencing

Voices:	(Strings, Bass), Flute, Piano
Style:	8-beat
Split point:	Left Voice D ³
Other info:	The volume of the pre-recorded track should be appropriately
	set so that the live performance is clear.







Support and resources

Join us online to access a range of resources to support electronic keyboard teaching and learning at trinitycollege.com/keyboard-resources

Discover online digital content, including videos and downloadable handouts from teachers and leading musicians, with advice and support on:

- Repertoire
- Technical work
- Keyboard techniques

Contact us

For further help you can contact the music support team at Trinity's central office at music@trinitycollege.com, or find the contact details of your local representative at trinitycollege.com/worldwide

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