

Sample Entrance Test
for
CR125-129 (BA in Popular Music)



“A very exciting future awaits everybody who is or will be part of the Cork School of Music”

BA in Popular Music

- CR125 Electric bass guitar
- CR126 Drums
- CR127 Electric guitar
- CR128 Keyboards
- CR129 Voice

The CIT Cork School of Music's BA in Popular Music equips its graduates with the necessary tools to succeed in the music industry. The magnificent CSM building is widely considered to be one of the best in the world - boasting state-of-the-art facilities & equipment. Performance venues, specialist rehearsal studios, music technology labs and recording studios provide a creative playground for our students. Our lecturers are second to none, boasting high-level academic qualifications, and impressive professional CVs reflecting their experience with some of the biggest names in the business. Whether you want to play in a band, or write, arrange and record your own music, or perhaps become a music educator, the CIT CSM's BA in Popular Music course is an excellent choice!

Students receive weekly instrumental tuition on both principal and auxiliary instruments; they attend ensemble and sectional classes, study music & technology, harmony and ear training throughout the four years of the degree. In Years 3 and 4 students can specialise, with options to pursue advanced instrumental performance, songwriting, arranging, musical direction, music technology, music history, music therapy, community music, or pathways to music teaching.

As part of a full-time student body of four hundred, taking five specialist performing arts undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, BAPM students work in a unique creative environment where creative and social interactions lead to expanded, and sometimes unexpected, career opportunities and pathways to further study.

The BA in Popular Music is an internationally recognised, four-year, honours level-8 degree. Graduates proudly go on to forge individual careers having acquired the skills and insight they need to follow their musical dreams.

Entrance Test requirements

Full details of what you will be required to do are supplied in this document:

- CR125 Electric bass guitar - page 3
- CR126 Drums - page 4
- CR127 Electric guitar - page 5
- CR128 Keyboards - page 6
- CR129 Voice -- page 7-8

A sample written paper is to be found on pages 9-11

Entrance Test requirements for CR125 (Electric bass guitar)

Performance: 2 songs of contrasting style and feel, both to be presented with backing track (approx. 3 minutes per song). Candidates are required to provide their own backing tracks. Playback facilities, with headphones for both CD and iPod will be provided. Please ensure you have your tracks organized in an appropriate playlist. **NB:** Make sure your choices best represent your passion for music.

The panel will be looking for evidence of your ability to play your instrument musically.

Musicianship:

Aural test: you will be assessed for pitch and rhythm recognition.

Example:

The candidate will be given the notation for the first bar of a four bar phrase in C major or A minor. The four bar phrase will be played four times to a click, and the candidate will be asked to firstly clap the rhythm of the piece, then play the missing bars of music on the bass.



Sight-reading: The candidate will be asked to read a chart with chord symbols and some basic notation.

Example:

♩ = 80

Interview

The panel will explore:

- your reason(s) for choosing to audition for this course
- your reason(s) for choosing a career in the music business
- your existing knowledge of the music business
- your musical experience to date
- your passion for music

The panel will also be looking for evidence that you have the temperament, commitment and maturity necessary to engage with a full-time course of intensive study.

Entrance Test Requirements for CR126 (Drums)

Performance: 2 songs of contrasting style and feel, both to be presented with backing track (approx. 3 minutes per song). Playback facilities, with headphones for both CD and iPod will be provided. Please ensure you have your tracks organized in an appropriate playlist. **NB:** Make sure your choices best represent your passion for music.

The panel will be looking for evidence of your ability:

- to play your instrument musically
- to play in time with a sense of groove
- to control the volume of your instrument

Musicianship

Aural test: candidates will be assessed for rhythm recognition. Below is an example of the type of rhythm that will be clapped for you. Once you've heard the rhythm twice you will then be asked to clap the rhythm back to us.



Groove Test: you will be asked to play with a simple, unprepared backing track loop. The backing track loop will be four or eight bars long and will contain no drums. You will be given time to listen to the track. You will then be asked to create and play an accompanying groove. This will showcase your ability to listen and create an effective groove by ear in the moment.

Sight-reading: you will be asked to read both single-line rhythms and fully notated grooves.

Sight Reading Example 1



Sight Reading Example 2



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Entrance Test Requirements for CR127 (Electric guitar)

Performance: 2 pieces/songs of contrasting style and feel (rock, jazz, country, soul, funk, etc.), both to be presented with backing track (approx. 3 minutes per song). Playback facilities, with headphones for both CD and iPod will be provided. Please ensure you have your tracks organized in an appropriate playlist, and that they best represent your passion for music. **NB:** The course is primarily for electric guitar; candidates who play the acoustic guitar will not be assessed and should consider applying for CR121 (BMus).

The panel will be looking for evidence of your ability:

- to play both rhythm (chords) and lead (single string lines)
- to play in time
- to play with an appropriate sound/tone for the style chosen
- to control the volume of your instrument

Musicianship

Aural test: candidates will be assessed for pitch and rhythm recognition

Example:



Sight-reading: you will be asked to play a piece which lasts 8 bars, in common time, in C major or A minor, and which contains 1-3 accidentals, 1 dotted rhythm and 1 rest

Example:



Interview

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- your musical experience to date
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Entrance Test requirements for CR128 (Keyboard)

Performance: 2 songs/pieces of contrasting style and feel, both to be presented with or without backing track (approx. 3 minutes per song/piece). Make sure your choices best represent your passion for music. You will have the option of playing an acoustic piano and/or a Nord Stage 2 Keyboard.
NB: It is not an option for you to bring your own keyboard for the Entrance Test.

The panel will be looking for evidence of your ability:

- to play your instrument musically
- to demonstrate 2-hand technique and independence between the hands
- to play in time

Musicianship:

Aural test: you will be assessed for chord recognition – major, minor & dominant

Harmonic Exercise: You will be asked to play any major, minor or dominant chord in all positions (root position, 1st inversion, etc.)

Sight-reading: you will be asked to read a basic chord chart with annotated rhythms and a small portion of fully annotated music

Example:

The image displays two musical examples for keyboard. The first example is a chord progression in F major, consisting of four measures: F, F7/Eb, Bb/D, and C7. The second example is a melody line in F major, consisting of four measures: F, D-, Bb, and a final chord. The melody line includes a fingering '5' under the first measure and a 'Bb' symbol under the final measure.

Interview

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The panel will also be looking for evidence that you have the temperament, commitment and maturity necessary to engage with a full-time course of intensive study

Entrance Test requirements for CR129 (Voice)

Performance:

2 songs of contrasting style and feel, both to be presented with backing track (max. 3 minutes per song) to best showcase your skills as a pop vocalist. Choices should convey a strong sense of your passion for music. Original material is welcome. At least 1 of the 2 songs must be performed with a backing track, which you are required to provide. Playback facilities (mini jack connection (for iPod/MP3 player) and CD player) will be available. Please ensure you have your tracks organized in an appropriate playlist. Candidates may bring their own accompanist or accompany themselves on the second song. **NB:** An accompanist will not be provided.

The panel will be looking for evidence of your vocal ability, musicality, and performance skills.

Musicianship:

You will be given a series of short tests to assess:

1. Your range and vocal facility

BAPM Sample Vocal Exercise

****Please note: the exercise below is a guideline only****

A simple vocal exercise will be demonstrated to test your range, pitch and vocal quality
A guide chord will be played and you will be asked to sing the exercise back accurately, ascending in semitones

80 BPM

The musical notation for the BAPM Sample Vocal Exercise consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and shows a sequence of chords: C, D \flat , D, and E \flat , with 'Etc....' following. The melody is written in eighth notes, with triplets of eighth notes under each chord. The bottom staff is in bass clef and shows the corresponding chords: C, D \flat , D, and E \flat . The exercise is marked with 'Ah' and a horizontal line indicating the vocal line.

2. Your ability to clap back a rhythmic pattern

BAPM Sample Rhythm Clap Back Test

****Please note: the exercise below is a guideline only****

A short rhythmic phrase will be played twice and you will be asked to clap it back accurately

70 BPM

The musical notation for the BAPM Sample Rhythm Clap Back Test is on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a series of 'x' marks representing a rhythmic pattern. This is followed by a short melodic phrase consisting of a quarter note, an eighth note, and a triplet of eighth notes.

3. Your ability to sing back a short melody

BAPM Sample Melody Sing Back Test

****Please note: the exercise below is a guideline only****

A short melodic phrase will be played twice and you will be asked to sing it back accurately on 'Lah'

70 BPM

The musical notation for the BAPM Sample Melody Sing Back Test is on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a series of 'x' marks representing a rhythmic pattern. This is followed by a short melodic phrase consisting of a quarter note, an eighth note, and a triplet of eighth notes.

4. Your ability to sing in a vocal harmony (to a backing track)

BAPM Sample Backing Vocal Harmony Test

****Please note: the exercise below is an example only****
 A short backing vocal feature (with full band accompaniment on backing track) will be played twice.
 It will then be played again with one harmony part missing.
 You will be asked to identify which part is missing and sing it in accurately.
 You are advised to pay special attention to vocal blending and appropriate feel, style and groove

50's Doo Wop

70 BPM

C Am F G

Doo___ doo-ee ooh___ doo-ee ooh___ Doo-ee ooh Wop Wop

Doo___ doo-ee ooh___ doo-ee ooh___ Doo-ee ooh Wop Wop

Doo___ doo-ee ooh___ doo-ee ooh___ Doo-ee ooh Wop Wop

5. Your ability to sing at sight (unaccompanied)

BAPM Sample Sight Singing Entrance Test

You will be given a guide chord & asked to perform unaccompanied
 You may sing to numbers, solfa or vowels of your choice

60 BPM

C , F G , C ,

mp *mf*

7 Dm G , C , G⁷ C

p

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Written Paper: Aural Skills

1. Identify the 10 chords played to you as either major or minor. Each chord will be played 3 times and there will be a short pause between each playing. (5 marks)
2. You will hear 2 short melodies, each played 4 times with a short pause between each playing. Transcribe **rhythm only** on the rhythm lines below. The first segment is 2 bars long and in 3/4. The second segment is 4 bars long and in 4/4. (15 marks)

The rhythms below are samples of what you might expect.

(i)



(ii)



3. You will hear two short melodies, each played 4 times with a short pause between each playing. The first bar of each melody is provided; you are required to notate the remainder. Note the clef in each. (20 marks)

Sample answers are shown below with cue-sized notes.

(i)



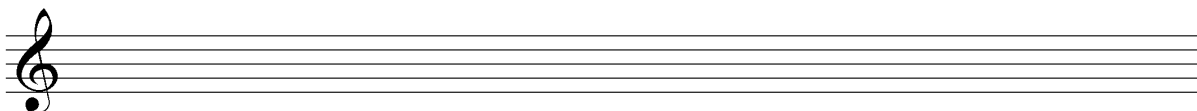
(ii)



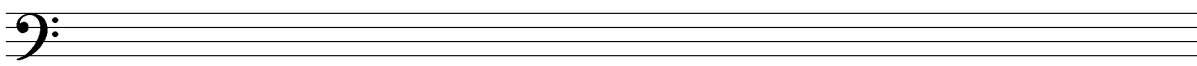
Written Paper: Notation Skills

4. On the staves below, notate the indicated scales over one octave, using quarter notes/crotchets. Observe the clef required and use *accidentals*, **not** a key signature. (15 marks)

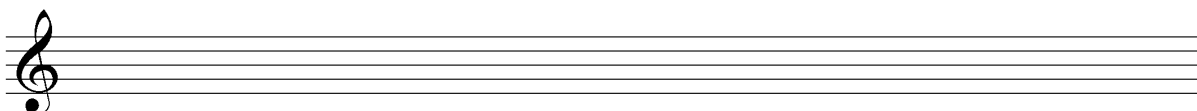
A major



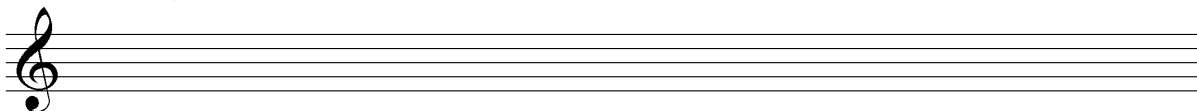
B^b major



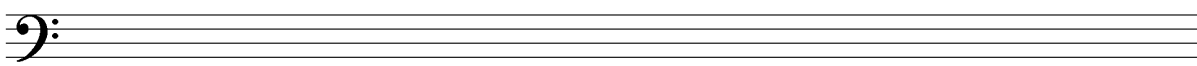
E major



E^b major



A^b major

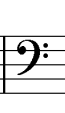


5. Notate, on the staff below, each of the indicated triads. Use accidentals, **not** a key signature. Note the clef for each. (10 marks)

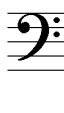
G minor



D major



A^b major



C minor



6. Name each of the numbered chords below. In the case of an inversion, state its position. (10 marks)

The image shows four chords in G major on a grand staff. Each chord is numbered in a box above it. Chord 1 is a G major triad (G4, B4, D5). Chord 2 is a G major triad (G4, B4, D5). Chord 3 is a G major triad (G4, B4, D5). Chord 4 is a G major triad (G4, B4, D5).

Chord 1 _____ Chord 3 _____
 Chord 2 _____ Chord 4 _____

7. Examine the notated rhythms below and complete each bar with appropriate rests to comply with the time signature. (10 marks)

(i)

The image shows a single bar of music in 4/4 time. The notes are: quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest, quarter rest, quarter note.

(ii)

The image shows a single bar of music in 4/4 time. The notes are: quarter note, quarter note, and a triplet of quarter notes.

8. Add the correct time signature to the notated rhythm below: (5 marks)

The image shows a single bar of music with the following notes: quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter rest.

9. Choose an artist and describe their music based on their influences. Discuss, briefly, the influence of your chosen artist on other musicians and, particularly, on you as a musician. (10 marks)