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London  
College of  
Music  
Examinations

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Rock  
Guitar

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Handbook  
Step 2

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From 2019

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## **Rock Guitar: Step 2**

This handbook is part of a progressive series of handbooks, primarily intended for candidates considering taking London College of Music examinations in rock guitar. The series provides a solid foundation of musical education for any rock guitar student, whether intending to take an exam or not. Candidates must always refer to the current Rock Guitar Syllabus: from 2019.

### **Syllabus validity**

This handbook is valid for examinations from Summer 2019.

### **Entering for an exam**

Exam entries can be made online at [lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk/enter)

### **Audio recordings**

Audio recordings of the pieces and backing tracks are available from [lcme.uwl.ac.uk](http://lcme.uwl.ac.uk)

### **Cover design**

Each LCME Rock Guitar handbook has a unique cover design. Designers MuirMcNeil used the instrument name to create a multi-layered typographic 'seed' composition, using interlocking fonts from their TwoPlus type system. This composition was then zoomed, cropped and modified by a colour palette specific to the instrument, generating a one-off cover design for each book. The seed composition is scaled in calibrated increments, the early grades zooming deep into the artwork, the higher grades revealing more of the typographic basis of the composition. As a result, bold, abstract, geometric cover designs develop progressively in their detail and complexity through the series.

Rock Guitar: Step 2

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All musical compositions by Tony Skinner

Cover design by Muir McNeil

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# Introduction

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## Tuning

For exam purposes instruments should be tuned to concert pitch (A=440Hz). The use of an electronic tuner or other tuning aid is permitted. The examiner will offer an E or A note to tune to on request.

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## Notation

### **Fretboxes**

Fretboxes are used to illustrate the chords required at this level. The vertical lines represent the strings (with the line furthest to the right representing the high E string); horizontal lines represent the frets. 0 above a string line indicates that an open (unfretted) string should be played. The numbers on the lines show the recommended fingering.

### **Tab**

As well as traditional musical notation the pieces within this book are also notated using tablature. The horizontal lines represent the strings (with the top line being the high E string). The numbers on the string lines refer to the frets — 0 on a line means play that string open (unfretted). Tablature does not include rhythm notation, so you should look at the traditional notation and listen to the recordings to guide you.

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## Fingering and picking options

Throughout the exam, it is your choice whether to use a plectrum, fingers or a combination of both; a thumbpick can be used if desired. The fingerings given in this book are likely to be effective for a wide range of players, however any alternative fingerings that produce an effective musical result are acceptable.

# Prepared Performances

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## Requirements

### **Performance of three pieces**

One from each Group, A, B and C

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## Information

### **Piece selection**

This book contains six specially composed rock guitar pieces. In the exam you are required to perform one piece from Group A, one from Group B and one from Group C. Group A pieces are all based on the A pentatonic minor scale, those in the Group B pieces are based on the E blues scale, and those in the Group C pieces are based on the G major scale.

### **Backing tracks**

The pieces at this level are to be performed along to set backing tracks. These are available to download from the LCME website. You do not need to bring these to the exam, as the examiner will provide the necessary backing tracks. Also available to download for the website are recordings of the tracks performed in full for demonstration purposes.

### **Performance style**

Performances should be accurate reproductions of the pieces as notated in this book. Alternative fingerings and playing positions can be adopted if preferred, provided the overall musical result is not altered. Prior to the performance commencing, you will be allowed a brief soundcheck to choose your sound and volume level. A clean or a distorted sound can be used, and you can bring distortion or other effects units to the exam providing that you can set them up promptly and unaided.

### **Performing from memory**

Performances do not need to be from memory. If notation is used it should not detract in any way from the confidence and presentation of the performance.

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## Chords and scales

The chords and scales that may appear in the pieces at this grade are all included at the back of this book. You should be fully familiar with these in order to be prepared for performing the set pieces in the exam.

### **Chords used in the exam pieces**

- Major chords: G C D
- Minor chords: Am Em
- 5th (power) chords: A5 D5 E5

### **Scales used in the exam pieces (all 1 octave)**

- A pentatonic minor
- E blues
- G major

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## Guidance

Performances should be fully accurate and confidently presented. Timing, clarity and technical control should be secure throughout.



# Boom at Noon

## Group A

♩ = 126

A5 D5 A5 G

Measures 1-8. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Chords: A5, D5, A5, G. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, B.

A5 D5 E5

Measures 9-16. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Chords: A5, D5, E5. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, B.

A5 D5 A5 G A5 D5 E5

Measures 17-24. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Chords: A5, D5, A5, G, A5, D5, E5. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, B.

Measures 25-31. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, B.

Measures 32-35. Treble clef, 4/4 time. Includes guitar tablature for strings T, A, B.

# Look Out!

## Group B

♩ = 96

E5

D5 A5

TAB

E5

6

TAB

D5 A5

11

TAB

D5 A5 E5

16

TAB

# Fight to the End

## Group B

♩ = 96

E5 A5 D G

TAB

5

TAB

9 G D

TAB

15 E5

TAB

# Living Legend

## Group C

♩ = 104

Musical notation for measures 1-6. Chords: G, D, C, D, G, D.

TAB: 3 3 0 0 2 2 3 3 2 2 0 0 1 1 0 0 2 2 2 2 3 3 0 0 2 2 3 3 2 2 0 0

Musical notation for measures 7-13. Chords: C, D.

TAB: 0 0 1 0 2 3 1 0 2 3 2 2 0 0 2 0 2 2 1 1 0 2 0 2 0 0 3

Musical notation for measures 14-19.

TAB: 2 0 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 3 2 0 0 2 2 0 3 0

Musical notation for measures 20-26. Chords: G, D, C, D.

TAB: 2 2 0 3 3 3 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 1 1 0 0 2 2 2 2 0 0 2 2 0 0 2 2 0 0

Musical notation for measures 27-30. Chord: G.

TAB: 1 1 0 2 0 2 3 3 0 0 0 0 3 3 0 0 0 0 2 2 3 3 3 3

# Let Me Tell You This

## Group C

♩ = 84

Chords: G, D, Am

TAB

3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	3	3	
0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0						
0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2										
2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2										
3	3	3	3					0	0	0	0										

7

TAB

0	0	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

13

Chords: G, D, Am

TAB

3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	3	3	
0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0						
0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2										
2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2										
3	3	3	3					0	0	0	0										

19

TAB

0	0	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Component 2: 10 marks

# Aural Assessment

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## Requirements

**A series of aural tests, designed to assess your listening ability and musicianship**

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## Rhythm test

A 1-bar riff will be played three times via a recording. During the third playing you will clap along with the exact rhythm of the riff. The test will then be repeated using a different riff.

The time signature will be 4/4. Note durations in the first half of the bar will be limited to crotchets (quarter notes) and quavers (eighth notes), whilst the second half of the bar will contain one minim (half note).

Some examples of the type of riffs that will occur at this grade are shown below, with the rhythm to be clapped indicated below the tab.

### Example 1

The image shows a musical staff in 4/4 time. The first staff contains a riff: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a half note on C5. Below the staff is a guitar tab with four fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0. Below the tab is a clapping rhythm diagram consisting of four vertical lines. The first two lines are connected by a horizontal line at the bottom, representing a quarter note. The third line is a single vertical line, representing a quarter note. The fourth line is a vertical line with a diamond shape at the top, representing a half note.

### Example 2

Example 2 shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody consists of four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers are 0, 0, 0, and 0. Below the tablature are four guitar pick-up diagrams: a single stem, a stem with a bar, a stem with a bar and a diamond, and a stem with a diamond.

### Example 3

Example 3 shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody consists of five quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, and D5. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers are 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0. Below the tablature are five guitar pick-up diagrams: a stem with a bar, a stem with a bar and a stem, a stem with a bar and a stem, a stem with a bar and a stem, and a stem with a diamond.

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## Pitch test

The examiner will play two notes consecutively either live or via a recording. Without using the guitar, you will be required to state whether the second note was higher or lower than the first note. The test will then be repeated using a different example.

Both notes will be taken from the G major scale and will be no more than a perfect 5th apart.

Below are examples of the type of pitch tests that will occur at this grade.

### Example 1

Example 1 shows a musical staff in 4/4 time with a treble clef. The melody consists of two notes: G4 and B4. The word "Higher" is written below the second note. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with three lines labeled T, A, and B. The fret numbers are 0 and 1. Below the tablature are two guitar pick-up diagrams: a stem and a stem with a diamond.

**Example 2**

Musical notation for Example 2. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a half note on the second line (G4) followed by a half note on the first space (F4). The word "Lower" is written below the second note. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with three strings labeled T, A, and B. The first note is fret 3 on the T string, and the second note is fret 3 on the A string.

**Example 3**

Musical notation for Example 3. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a half note on the first space (F4) followed by a half note on the second line (G4). The word "Higher" is written below the second note. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with three strings labeled T, A, and B. The first note is fret 0 on the T string, and the second note is fret 0 on the A string.

**Example 4**

Musical notation for Example 4. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a half note on the first space (F4) followed by a half note on the second line (G4). The word "Lower" is written below the second note. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with three strings labeled T, A, and B. The first note is fret 0 on the T string, and the second note is fret 1 on the A string.

**Example 5**

Musical notation for Example 5. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a half note on the second line (G4) followed by a half note on the first space (F4). The word "Lower" is written below the second note. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with three strings labeled T, A, and B. The first note is fret 3 on the T string, and the second note is fret 0 on the A string.

**Example 6**

Musical notation for Example 6. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time, showing a half note on the first space (F4) followed by a half note on the second line (G4). The word "Higher" is written below the second note. The bottom staff is a guitar TAB with three strings labeled T, A, and B. The first note is fret 2 on the T string, and the second note is fret 1 on the A string.

# Chords and Scales

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## Chords

**G major**

T	3
A	0
B	0
B	2
B	3

0 0 0

1					
2					3

**C major**

T	0
A	1
A	0
B	2
B	3

X 0 0

			1		
2					
3					

**D major**

T	2
A	3
A	2
B	0

XX0

		1		2	
				3	

**A minor**

T	0
A	1
A	2
B	2
B	0

X0 0

			1		
2		3			

**E minor**

T	0
A	0
A	0
B	2
B	2
B	0

0 0 0 0

2	3				

**A5**

T	
A	
A	2
B	0

X0 XXX

			1		

D5

T

A 2

B 0

XX0 XX

E5

T

A

B 2

0

0 XXXX

# Scales

## A pentatonic minor

T

A

B 0 3 0 2 0 2

0 0 0

## E blues

T

A 2 0 2 3 0 3 0

B

0 0 0

## G major

T

A 0 2 0 1 3 0 2 3

B

0 0 0





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