# GUITAR \*\*rockscho

**GRADE 3** 









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# Rockschool

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### Welcome To Guitar Grade 3

Welcome to the Rockschool Guitar Grade 3 pack. The book and CD contain everything needed to play guitar in this grade. In the book you will find the exam scores in both standard guitar notation and TAB. The accompanying CD has full stereo mixes of each tune, backing tracks to play along with for practice, tuning notes and spoken two bar count-ins to each piece. Handy tips on playing the pieces and the marking schemes can be found in the Guru's Guide on page 22. If you have any queries about this or any other Rockschool exam, please call us on **0845 460 4747**, email us at *info@rockschool.co.uk* or visit our website *www.rockschool.co.uk*. Good luck!

### Level 1 Requirements for Grades 1, 2 & 3

The nine Rockschool grades are divided into four levels. These levels correspond to the levels of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Further details about the NQF can be found a www.qca.org.uk/NQF. Details of all Rockschool's accredited qualifications can be found at www.qca.org.uk/openquals.

Guitar Grade 3 is part of Level 1. This Level is for players who are just starting out and who are looking to build a solid technical and stylistic foundation for their playing.

**Grade 1:** a player of Grade 1 standard should be able to play up to 32 bars of music using first position chords and melodies composed of whole, half, quarter and eighth notes and associated rests, tied notes, and dotted half and quarter notes. Performances should include basic legato and staccato playing where marked.

**Grade 2:** in this grade you are beginning to acquire a range of physical and expressive techniques, including palm muting and the use of double stops on adjacent strings, simple legato and staccato and slides, as well as simple dynamics. In this grade you will also begin to work on your stylistic appreciation.

**Grade 3:** this grade continues the foundation work started in Grade 2. As a player you will be encountering syncopated eighth and sixteenth note strumming as well as developing the palette of expressive techniques to include fretting hand and whammy bar vibrato, hammer ons and pull offs, slides and simple bends. The pieces of music are now longer, covering two pages and you should be developing your stylistic awareness, taking into account amp settings for each song.

### **Guitar Exams at Grade 3**

There are three types of exam that can be taken using this pack: a Grade Exam, a Performance Certificate and a Band Exam.

### Guitar Grade 3 Exam: this is for players who want to develop performance and technical skills

Players wishing to enter for a Guitar Grade 3 exam need to prepare **three** pieces of which **one** may be a free choice piece chosen from outside the printed repertoire. In addition you must prepare the technical exercises in the book, undertake either a sight reading test or an improvisation & interpretation test, take an ear test and answer general musicianship questions. Samples of these tests are printed in the book along with audio examples on the CD.

### Guitar Grade 3 Performance Certificate: this is for players who want to focus on performing in a range of styles

To enter for your Guitar Grade 3 Performance Certificate you play pieces only. You can choose any **five** of the six tunes printed in this book, or you can choose to bring in up to **two** free choice pieces as long as they meet the standards set out by Rockschool. Free choice piece checklists for all grades can be found on the Rockschool website: www.rockschool.co.uk.

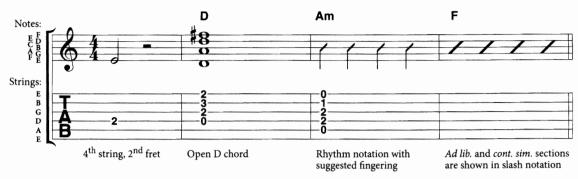
### Level 1 Band Exam in Guitar, Bass and Drums: this is for players who want to play in a band

The Level 1 band exam is for all of you who would like to play the repertoire at Grade 3 as a three piece band, consisting of guitar, bass and drums. You play together in the exam, using the parts printed in the Grade 3 Guitar, Bass and Drum books. Like the Guitar Grade 3 Performance Certificate, you play any **five** of the six printed tunes, or you can include up to **two** free choice pieces as long as they meet the standards set out by Rockschool. If you take this exam you will be marked as a unit with each player expected to contribute equally to the overall performance of each piece played.

# **Guitar Notation Explained**

THE MUSICAL STAVE shows pitches and rhythms and is divided by lines into bars. Pitches are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet.

TABLATURE graphically represents the guitar fingerboard. Each horizontal line represents a string, and each number represents a fret.



# **Definitions For Special Guitar Notation**

**HAMMER ON:** Pick the lower note, then sound the higher note by fretting it without picking.



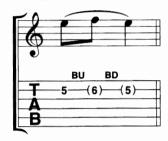
**PULL OFF:** Pick the higher note then sound the lower note by lifting the finger without picking.



**SLIDE:** Pick the first note, then slide to the next with the same finger.



STRING BENDS: Pick the first note then bend (or release the bend) to the pitch indicated in brackets.



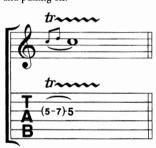
GLISSANDO: A small slide off of a note toward the end of its rhythmic duration. Do not slide 'into' the following note – subsequent notes should be repicked.



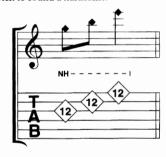
VIBRATO: Vibrate the note by bending and releasing the string smoothly and continuously.



**TRILL:** Rapidly alternate between the two bracketed notes by hammering on and pulling off.



NATURAL HARMONICS: Lightly touch the string above the indicated fret then pick to sound a harmonic.



PINCHED HARMONICS: Bring the thumb of the picking hand into contact with the string immediately after the pick.



**PICK HAND TAP:** Strike the indicated note with a finger from the picking hand. Usually followed by a pull off.



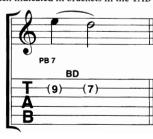
**FRET HAND TAP:** As pick hand tap, but use fretting hand. Usually followed by a pull off or hammer on.



**QUARTER TONE BEND:** Pick the note indicated and bend the string up by a quarter tone.



PRE-BENDS: Before picking the note, bend the string from the fret indicated between the staves, to the equivalent pitch indicated in brackets in the TAB



WHAMMY BAR BEND: Use the whammy bar to bend notes to the pitches indicated in brackets in the TAB



D.%. al Coda



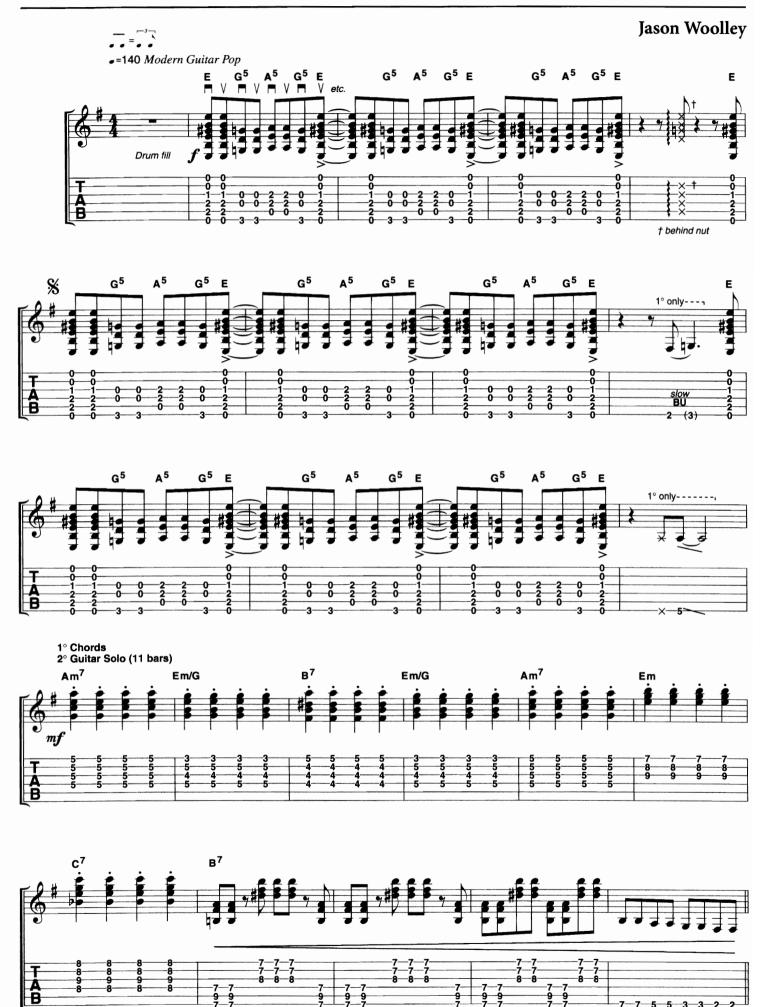
• Go back to the sign (%), then play until the bar marked *To Coda* ⊕ then skip to the section marked ⊕ *Coda*.

 Go back to the beginning of the song and play until the bar marked *Fine* (end).

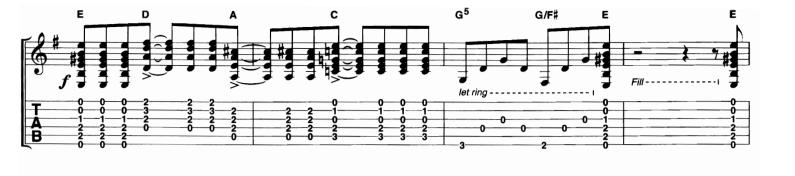
Repeat bars between signs.

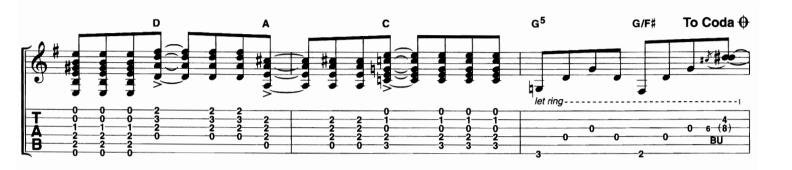
 When a repeated section has different endings, play the first ending only the first time and the second ending only the second time.

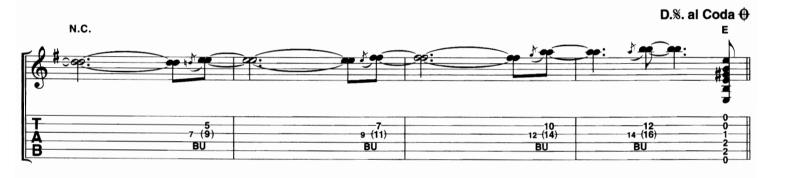


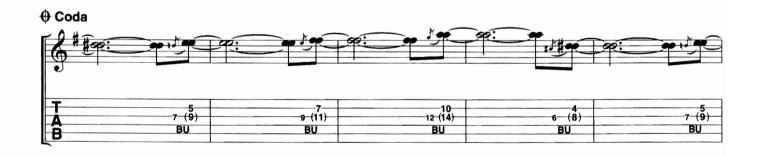


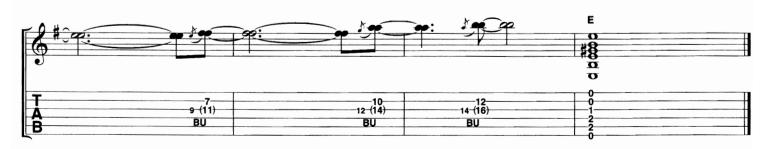
מחוומו לומחב ה













# Deirdre Cartwright



A Guitar Grade 3





### **Hussein Boon**







**Steve Wrigley** 







## Noam Lederman

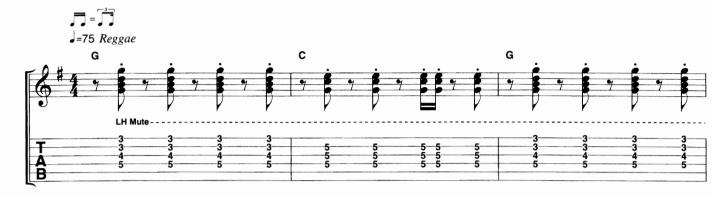


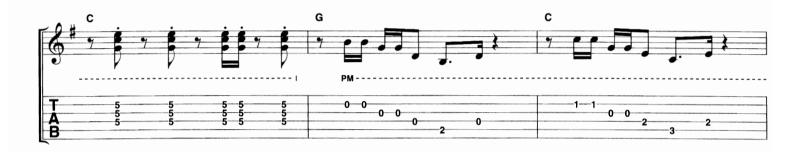
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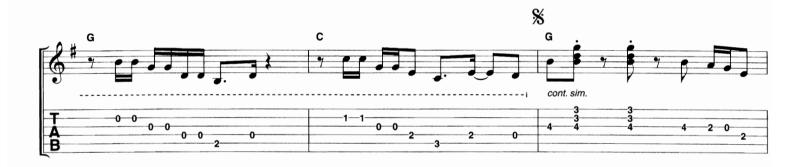




### Adrian York













### **Technical Exercises**



In this section, the examiner will ask you to play a selection of exercises drawn from each of the three groups shown below. Groups A and B contain examples of the kinds of scales and arpeggios you can use when playing the pieces. Group C contains a selection of chords commonly used in the pieces. In Group D you will be asked to prepare the riff exercise and play it to the CD backing track. You do not need to memorise the exercises (and can use the book in the exam) but the examiner will be looking for the speed of your response. The examiner will also give credit for the level of your musicality.

Groups A and B should be prepared in the following keys: G, A and B with the root note on the 6th string. Groups A, B and C should be played at  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}} = 60$ . The examiner will give you this tempo in the exam.

### **Group A: Scales**

1. Major scales. G major scale shown.



2. Natural minor scales. A natural minor scale shown



3. Minor pentatonic scales. B minor pentatonic shown



4. Blues scales. G blues scale shown



### **Group B: Arpeggios**

1. Major arpeggios. G major arpeggio shown

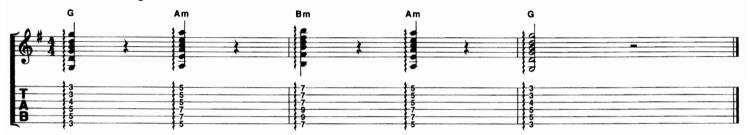


2. Minor arpeggios. B minor arpeggio shown

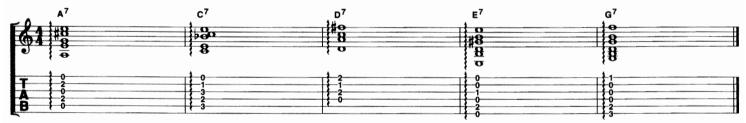


### **Group C: Chords**

1. Barre chords to be given as a continuous exercise



2. Dominant  $^7$  chords. The following dominant  $^7$  chords can be presented in open position or in barre chord form



### **Group D: Riff**

In the exam you will be asked to play the following riff to the backing track on the CD. The riff shown in bars 1 & 2 should be played in the same shape in bars 3–8. The root note of the pattern to be played is shown in the music in each bar where the chord changes. Where only one bar is shown, play only the first bar of the riff. The tempo is  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}} = 100$ .



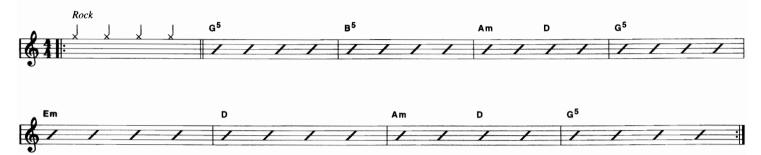
# Sight Reading

In this section you have a choice between **either** a sight reading test **or** an improvisation & interpretation test (see facing page). Printed below is the type of sight reading test you are likely to encounter in the exam. The piece will be composed in the style of either rock or blues. The examiner will allow you 90 seconds to prepare it and will set the tempo for you on a metronome. The tempo is  $\frac{1}{2} = 80$ .



# Improvisation & Interpretation

**Printed** below is an example of the type of improvisation & interpretation test you are likely to encounter in the exam. You will be asked to play an improvised line to a backing track lasting four bars in the style of rock or blues. You may choose to play either rhythmic chords or a melodic lead line. You will be allowed 30 seconds to prepare. You will be allowed to practise through one playing of the test on the CD before playing it a second time for the exam. This test is continuous with a one bar count in at the beginning and after the practice session. The tempo is  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}} = 90$ .





There are two ear tests in this grade. The examiner will play each test to you twice on CD. You will find one example of each type of test you will be given in the exam printed below.

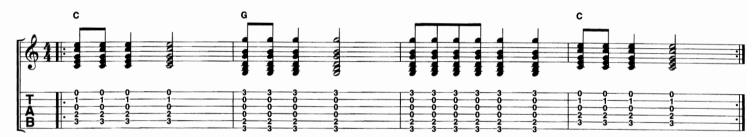
### **Test 1: Melodic Recall**

You will be asked to play back on your guitar a simple melody of not more than four bars composed from either the G major or G minor pentatonic scales. You will be given the tonic note and told the starting note and you will hear the test twice with a drum backing. There will then be a short break for you to practise the test and then the test will recommence. You will play the melody with the drum backing. This test is continuous. The tempo is  $\sqrt{\phantom{a}} = 80$ .



### Test 2: Chord and Rhythm Recall

You will be asked to play back the four bar rhythmic chord progression on your guitar. You will be told the tonic chord and you will hear the rhythmic chord progression played twice with a drum backing. There will then be a short break for you to practise the test and then the test will recommence and you will play the rhythmic chord progression to the drum backing. This test is continuous. The tempo is  $\frac{1}{2} = 80$ .



# **General Musicianship Questions**

You will be asked five General Musicianship Questions at the end of the exam. The examiner will ask questions based on pieces you have played in the exam. Some of the theoretical topics can be found in the Technical Exercises.

### **Topics:**

- i) Music theory
- ii) Knowledge of your instrument

The music theory questions will cover the recognition of the following at this grade:

Note pitches

Note values

Rests

Time Signatures

**Key Signatures** 

D.S. and D.C. al Coda

Dynamic markings (p, mp, mf, f and ff)

Repeat markings

Accents, staccato and vibrato Hammer on and pull off

Cresc. and dim.

Knowledge of the construction of the following chord types:

Major

Dominant 7

Minor

The instrument knowledge questions will cover the following topics at this grade:

Plugging into the amplifier and the guitar

Volume and tone adjustments on the guitar

Volume and tone adjustments on the amplifier

Creation and manipulation of distorted sounds

Knowledge of parts of the guitar:

Fretboard, neck, body, tuning pegs, nut, pickups, bridge, pickup selectors, scratchplate and jack socket

Knowledge of main guitar makes.

Knowledge of main pick up types.

Questions on all these topics will be based on pieces played by you in the exam. Tips on how to approach this part of the exam can be found in the Rockschool Companion Guide and on the Rockschool website: www.rockschool.co.uk.

### The Guru's Guide To Guitar Grade 3

This section contains some handy hints compiled by Rockschool's Guitar Guru to help you get the most out of the performance pieces. Do feel free to adapt the tunes to suit your playing style. Remember, these tunes are your chance to show your musical imagination and personality.

The TAB fingerings are suggestions only. Feel free to use different neck positions as they suit you. Please also note that any solos featured in the full mixes are not meant to be indicative of the standard required for the grade.

### **Guitar Grade 3 Tunes**

Rockschool tunes help you play the hit tunes you enjoy. The pieces have been written by top pop and rock composers and players according to style specifications drawn up by Rockschool.

The tunes printed here fall into two categories. The first category can be called the 'contemporary mainstream' and features current styles in today's charts. The second category of pieces consists of 'roots styles', those classic grooves and genres which influence every generation of performers.

### CD full mix track 1, backing track 8: Hazi Taxi

A modern guitar rock track in the style of The Kaiser Chiefs. The opening chord riff looks quite tricky but is made up of abbreviated, or 5, chords and should be played with an even up-and-down strumming action, while remembering not to sound the unwanted strings. The piece should be played with wit and invention using some of the suggested tricks in the score. Watch out for the sustained bends towards the end of the piece.

Composer: Jason Woolley.

### CD full mix track 2, backing track 9: Been There

This is a piece that incorporates both rock and punk elements and is a good work out for both chords (stabbed on the offbeat) and a single note pattern played in different positions. Other techniques include the use of slides, accented notes and dynamics, particularly at the end which builds to a rousing climax. There is an eight bar solo where you can use some of the scale ideas found in the Technical Exercises.

Composer: Deirdre Cartwright.

### CD full mix track 3, backing track 10: Download

This hard rock track features many techniques common to the style, including use of pedal open strings with a moving, accented single note theme played in two different positions. Watch out for the fretting hand vibrato which occurs regularly throughout the first half of the piece. The single note section is made up of short arpeggios which are palm muted followed by double stops building in volume as a lead into the eight bar solo. The section following is in swing time but sections are played in triplets. This is altogether a complex piece which needs to be played with confidence and assurance.

Composer: Hussein Boon.

### CD full mix track 4, backing track 11: Pipeline

This is an old style 60s instrumental guitar blues track in the manner of Link Wray or Band X. The part features a mix of techniques, including staccato and quarter bends which will need practice to sound convincing. The eighth note chords should be played evenly (watch out for the staccato markings at the end of this section). The eight bar solo is played around a I, IV, V sequence in dominant 7 chords.

Composer: Steve Wrigley

### CD full mix track 5, backing track 12: Little Shady

As the title suggests, this song is a modern hip-hop vibe (check out the solo section on the CD which quotes 'Without Me' by Eminem). The line is quite sparse throughout this song, demonstrating how in this style the role of the guitar is to punctuate and add colour to a performance rather than to dominate matters. Think about how this idea can be incorporated into the eight bar guitar solo.

Composer: Noam Lederman.

### CD full mix track 6, backing track 13: Trenchtown

A laid back piece of classic reggae that begins with trademark stabbed offbeat eighth note chords, palm muted. As in the previous piece, the role of the guitar is to provide colour and to make understated statements combining single notes, chords and three-note arpeggios. There is a short four bar solo section where you can develop some of these ideas.

Composer: Adrian York.

### **CD Musicians:**

Guitars: Deirdre Cartwright; Keith Airey; Hussein Boon

Bass: Henry Thomas; Jason Woolley

Drums: Peter Huntington; Noam Lederman Keyboards and programming: Alastair Gavin

### **Guitar Grade 3 Marking Schemes**

The table below shows the marking scheme for the Guitar Grade 3 exam.

ELEMENT	PASS	MERIT	DISTINCTION
Piece 1	13 out of 20	15 out of 20	17+ out of 20
Piece 2	13 out of 20	15 out of 20	17+ out of 20
Piece 3	13 out of 20	15 out of 20	17+ out of 20
Technical Exercises	11 out of 15	12-13 out of 15	14+ out of 15
Either Sight Reading or Improvisation & Interpretation	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
Ear Tests	6 out of 10	7–8 out of 10	9+ out of 10
General Musicianship Questions	3 out of 5	4 out of 5	5 out of 5
Total Marks	Pass: 65%+	Merit: 75%+	Distinction: 85%+

The table below shows the marking scheme for the Guitar Grade 3 Performance Certificate and the Level 1 Band Exam.

ELEMENT	PASS	MERIT	DISTINCTION
Piece 1	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 2	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 3	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 4	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Piece 5	14 out of 20	16 out of 20	18+ out of 20
Total Marks	Pass: 70%+	<b>Merit: 80</b> %+	Distinction: 90%+

# **Entering Rockschool Exams**

Entering a Rockschool exam is easy. Please read through these instructions carefully before filling in the exam entry form. Information on current exam fees can be obtained from Rockschool by ringing 0845 460 4747 or by logging on to our website www.rockschool.co.uk.

- You should enter for your exam when you feel ready.
- You can enter for any one of three examination periods. These are shown below with their closing dates.

PERIOD	DURATION	CLOSING DATE
Period A	1st February to 15th March	1st December
Period B	1st May to 31st July	1 <sup>st</sup> April
Period C	23rd October to 15 <sup>th</sup> December	1st October

### These dates will apply from 1st September 2006 until further notice

- Please complete the form giving the information required. Please fill in the type and level of exam, the instrument, along with the period and year. Finally, fill in the fee box with the appropriate amount. You can obtain up to date information on all Rockschool exam fees from the website: <a href="https://www.rockschool.co.uk">www.rockschool.co.uk</a>. You should send this form with a cheque or postal order (payable to Rockschool Ltd) to the address shown on the order form. **Please also indicate on the form whether or not you would like to receive notification via email.**
- Applications received after the expiry of the closing date may be accepted subject to the payment of an additional fee.
- When you enter an exam you will receive from Rockschool an acknowledgement letter or email containing a copy of our exam regulations.
- Rockschool will allocate your entry to a centre and you will receive notification of the exam, showing a date, location and time as well as advice of what to bring to the centre. We endeavour to give you four weeks' notice of your exam.
- You should inform Rockschool of any cancellations or alterations to the schedule as soon as you can as it is usually not possible to transfer entries from one centre, or one period, to another without the payment of an additional fee.
- Please bring your music book and CD to the exam. You may not use photocopied music, nor the music used by someone else in another exam. The examiner will sign each book during each examination. You may be barred from taking an exam if you use someone else's music.
- You should aim to arrive for your Grade 3 exam fifteen minutes before the time stated on the schedule.
- Each Grade 3 exam is scheduled to last for 20 minutes. You can use a small proportion of this time to tune up and get ready.
- Two to three weeks after the exam you will receive a copy of the examiner's mark sheet. Every successful player will receive a Rockschool certificate of achievement.



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www.musicroom.com

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Jimi Savage. & Simon Troup

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### **Your Guarantee of Quality**

As publishers we strive to produce every book to the highest commercial standards. The music has been freshly engraved and the book has been carefully designed to minimise awkward page turns and to make playing from it a real pleasure. Particular care has been given to specifying acid free, neutral-sized paper made from pulps which have not been elemental chlorine bleached. The pulp is from farmed sustainable forests and produced with special regard for the environment. Throughout the printing and binding have been planned to ensure a sturdy, attractive publication which should give you years of enjoyment. If your copy fails to meet our high standards, please inform us and we will gladly replace it.

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# **GRADE 3**

**Rockschool** is about playing the styles of music you enjoy. Our specially written tunes develop the key skills, styles and techniques you need to help you achieve your musical goals and aspirations.



This **Rockschool Guitar** series is valid from September 2006 and includes new backing tracks for the technical exercises, improvisation & interpretation and ear tests included after detailed consultations with users all around the country.



The **Rockschool** packs have standard notation and TAB plus great sounding CDs featuring top musicians. We also encourage everyone to be creative with our **Rockschool** tunes — so feel free to improvise and adapt them to suit your playing style and musical approach.



This pack contains the tunes from **Grade 3** in **Level 1**. This is for those of you who are building up confidence in the fundamentals of playing. To help you progress, read our **Guru's Guide** where you will find hints on playing each tune. There is also a description of the playing achievements you will need to aim for at **Level 1** (Grades 1-3), so you can have an overview of your progress at a glance. A **Companion Guide** for **Guitar** is also available.

Our **Rockschool** grades are accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). When you take one of our **Rockschool** exams you will have a qualification and measure of your achievement that is recognised around the world. It shows you can play your music when it really counts.

We know you will achieve great results from playing Guitar with Rockschool.

# Enjoy!

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www.rockschool.co.uk

