

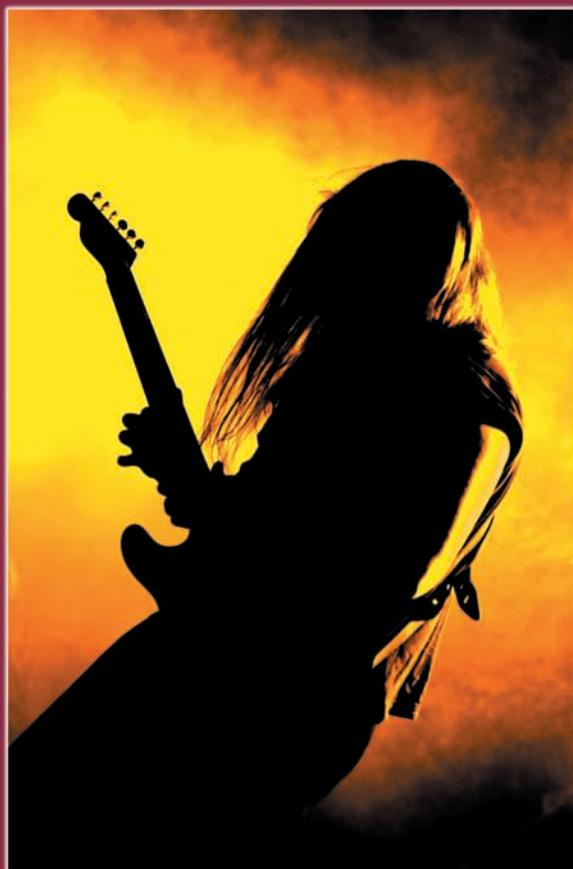
**RGT@LCM**

Registry of Guitar Tutors  
at London College of Music

# ROCK GUITAR PERFORMANCE AWARDS

**Combined Syllabus and Information Booklet**

**Valid from 2012 until further notice**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WEST LONDON**  
London College of Music Examinations

**London College of Music Exams**  
Qualifications are certificated by the University of West London

## About Registry of Guitar Tutors (RGT)

RGT was established in the UK in 1992 and is now the world's premier organisation of guitar educators. To find a registered guitar tutor in your area visit [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)

RGT exams are operated in partnership with London College of Music Exams, which was founded in 1887 and is one of the world's most respected music examination boards.

RGT organises guitar exams, from beginner to professional Diploma level, in numerous countries around the world.

RGT offers exams in rock guitar, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, jazz guitar and popular music theory.

RGT qualifications are awarded and certificated by the University of West London.



For more information about RGT visit  
[www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)

### RGT Board of Honorary Patrons:

Sir Paul McCartney, David Gilmour, Hank Marvin, Ronnie Wood, John Etheridge, Gordon Giltrap, Suzi Quatro, Carlos Bonell, Dave Kelly, John Illsley, Neil Murray, Glenn Tilbrook.

RGT@LCM, University of West London, St Mary's Road, London W5 5RF  
020 8231 2751  
[rgt.lcm@uwl.ac.uk](mailto:rgt.lcm@uwl.ac.uk)  
[www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)

# Rock Guitar Performance Awards

*Performance Awards* are alternatives to the RGT Grade exams. Performance Awards focus entirely on the performance of prepared pieces.

There are ten levels of Performance Award. The table below shows their titles and the grade standard they are equivalent to.

Performance Award	Equivalent Grade	Performance Award	Equivalent Grade
Initial Level	Initial Stage	Level 4	Grade 4
Preliminary Level	Preliminary Grade	Level 5	Grade 5
Level 1	Grade 1	Level 6	Grade 6
Level 2	Grade 2	Level 7	Grade 7
Level 3	Grade 3	Level 8	Grade 8

Up to and including Performance Award Level 5, candidates will be assessed solely on the performance of THREE prepared pieces, FOUR pieces for Levels 6 to 8. There are no other components in Performance Awards.

At least one of the pieces must be chosen from those listed for the equivalent grades (shown in the Performance Pieces List overleaf), but the other pieces can be free choices, providing they are of a similar standard. Candidates should be aware that if the standard of a free choice piece is significantly easier than that of those listed for the equivalent grade, this may be reflected in the marking. The programme should contain a variety of rock styles and techniques, and should include both lead and rhythm guitar playing.

Performance Awards provide an ideal opportunity for developing rock musicians, who do not wish to take the more comprehensive grade exam, to have their playing professionally assessed and to receive independent feedback on their playing from an experienced examiner. As well as being qualifications in their own right, Performance Awards also offer candidates the opportunity to have their Prepared Performances assessed prior to entering for a full grade exam. Performance Awards are not Ofqual accredited, but are accredited by London College of Music Exams and successful candidates will receive a Performance Award certificate from the University of West London.

There are three types of Performance Award:

- **Live Performance Award:** Candidates attend an exam venue and perform their chosen set of pieces, as described above.
- **Filmed Performance Award:** This follows exactly the same format as a Live Performance Award, except that candidates submit a video recording of their performance rather than attending an exam venue. The video may be submitted on DVD or uploaded via the RGT website. A slightly higher standard of performance will be expected than for a Live Performance Award.
- **Recorded Performance Award:** This follows exactly the same format as a Live Performance Award, except that candidates submit an audio recording of their performance rather than attending an exam venue. The recording may be submitted on CD or uploaded via the RGT website. A significantly higher standard of performance will be expected than for a Live Performance Award.

# Performance Pieces List

## Initial Level

- *Quiet As A Bulldog* • *Firecracker* • *The Jaguar*
- *Jump The Barrier* • *Armour Plated* • *Missing In Action*

All the specially-composed Initial Level performance pieces are in the *RGT Initial Stage Rock Guitar Playing* handbook/CD, which is available from [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com) or can be ordered from your local music store.

## Preliminary Level

- *Boom At Noon* • *Taken By Surprise* • *Look Out!*
- *Fight To The End* • *Living Legend* • *Let Me Tell You This*

All the specially-composed Preliminary Level performance pieces are in the *RGT Preliminary Grade Rock Guitar Playing* handbook/CD, which is available from [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com) or can be ordered from your local music store.

## Level 1

- *Sunshine Of Your Love* – Cream • *Smoke On The Water* – Deep Purple
- *Smells Like Teen Spirit* – Nirvana

## Level 2

- *Day Tripper* – The Beatles • *Wonderful Tonight* – Eric Clapton
- *Should I Stay Or Should I Go* – The Clash

## Level 3

- *All Right Now* – Free • *Paranoid* – Black Sabbath
- *Pinball Wizard* – The Who

All the specially-arranged performance pieces that are listed for Levels One, Two and Three are in the book/CD *Graded Guitar Songs – 9 Rock Classics for Beginning Level Guitarists*, which is available from [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com) or can be ordered from your local music store.

## Level 4

- *Layla* – Derek and the Dominos
- *All Along the Watchtower* – The Jimi Hendrix Experience
- *Sweet Home Alabama* – Lynyrd Skynyrd
- *Walk This Way* – Aerosmith

## Level 5

- *The Boys Are Back In Town* – Thin Lizzy
- *Sweet Child O' Mine* – Guns N' Roses
- *Under The Bridge* – Red Hot Chili Peppers
- *Always With Me, Always With You* – Joe Satriani

All the specially-arranged performance pieces that are listed for Levels Four and Five are in the book/CD *Graded Rock Guitar Songs – 8 Rock Classics for Intermediate Guitarists*, which is available from [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com) or can be ordered from your local music store.

## Level 6

- *Albatross* by Fleetwood Mac (from *In Session With Peter Green*)
- *Parisienne Walkways* by Gary Moore (from *Play Guitar With... The Greatest Guitar Solos of All Time*)
- *Crazy Train* by Ozzy Osbourne (from *Guitar Play-Along Vol. 3: Hard Rock*)
- *You Really Got Me* by Van Halen (from *Jam With Van Halen*)
- *Toxicity* by System of a Down (from *Guitar Play-Along Vol 50: 2000s Metal*)
- *Justin* by Korn (from *In Session With Korn*)

## Level 7

- *Stairway To Heaven* by Led Zeppelin (from *Play Guitar With... The Best of Led Zeppelin Vol. 2*)
- *Samba Pa Ti* by Santana (from *Play Guitar With... The Greatest Guitar Solos of All Time*)
- *The Trooper* by Iron Maiden (from *Play Guitar With... The Greatest Guitar Solos of All Time*)
- *Private Investigations* by Dire Straits (from *Jam With Dire Straits*)
- *Seek And Destroy* by Metallica (from *Play Guitar With The Best of Metallica*)

## Level 8

- *Savoy* by Jeff Beck (from *In Session with Jeff Beck*)
- *Satch Boogie* by Joe Satriani (from *Jam With Joe Satriani*)
- *The Spirit of Radio* by Rush (from *Authentic Play Along – Rush*)
- *Bat Country* by Avenged Sevenfold (from *Guitar Play-Along Vol. 50: 2000s Metal*)
- *Frank* by Steve Vai (from *Play Guitar With Steve Vai*)

In brackets, after each piece listed for Levels Six, Seven and Eight, is the name of a publication that includes an accurate transcription of the original artist's recording and includes a backing track to perform with. All the publications listed are available from [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com)

Where a piece originally contains an improvised guitar solo, candidates can either reproduce this or alternatively can perform their own solo – providing this includes an appropriate degree of technical content for the exam level.

## Free Choice Pieces

In selecting suitable 'free choice' pieces, candidates should refer to the main guitar parts (excluding any guitar solos) of the songs listed in order to assess the standard expected for this section. The guitar solos are often of a highly advanced technical standard and therefore it is not intended that they should be used as a measure of the standard of playing expected for these exams. However, candidates are at liberty to reproduce the original artist's solo if they wish, although an alternative solo that is stylistically appropriate is perfectly acceptable.

Free choice pieces can include candidate's own compositions, but this is not a requirement and the compositional element of any pieces will not be assessed.

Any free choice pieces, up to and including Level 5, should not exceed 5 minutes each. For higher levels, the total duration of all pieces combined (including any gaps between pieces to change amp settings, backing tracks etc.) should be as follows:

Level 6: between 12 and 24 minutes;

Level 7: between 14 and 28 minutes;

Level 8: between 15 and 30 minutes.

## Further Information

Performance Award entry forms can be downloaded from [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)

Candidates are expected to use an electric guitar, however, the use of an acoustic guitar for part of the performance is acceptable provided the music being performed is clearly rock-orientated.

Performances should be an accurate reproduction of the main guitar theme, riffs and/or rhythm part of the pieces. Candidates are encouraged to perform the pieces from memory – although this is not a requirement.

The use of altered tunings is acceptable.

### **Extra Information for *Live Performance Awards*:**

Candidates should bring to the exam all the backing tracks needed for their performance in this section, regardless of whether the pieces are selected from the performance list or are 'free choices' – the examiner will NOT provide any of the backing tracks. All audio for the backing tracks must be in CD format, as exam venues will normally only be equipped for CD playback. Candidates wishing to play backing tracks in any format other than a CD must bring a self-contained playback set-up with them, including suitable amplification and speakers, and must be able to set this up promptly and unaided.

Prior to the performance commencing, candidates will be allowed a brief 'soundcheck' so that they can choose their sound and volume level. Candidates can use either a clean or a distorted guitar sound for their performance of these tracks, and can bring their own distortion or other effects units to the exam providing that they can set them up promptly and unaided.

Candidates using an altered tuning should ensure that they are able to re-tune their guitar promptly and unaided, or should bring to the exam room a pre-tuned separate guitar for any pieces that require an altered tuning.

### **Extra Information for *Filmed Performance Awards*:**

The equipment used to film the performance need not be of a professional quality, a standard domestic-quality camcorder or similar will normally suffice, providing it is of sufficient quality that the examiner will be able to see and hear the candidate's performance clearly enough to enable a reliable assessment to be made. The quality of the filming itself, or any visual effects, will not be part of the assessment.

Each piece should be filmed without edits.

Because videoing a performance will allow candidates the opportunity to film several attempts at performing a piece and then submitting their best take, the performance standard expected for a Filmed Performance Award is slightly higher than that expected for a Live Performance Award of the same Level.

A single disc containing all the performances, in a format that will play on a standard DVD player, should be submitted by post, together with the entry form. The candidate name should be clearly written on the disc. A list of the titles of all the pieces and their composers, in the order they are performed on the disc, should be attached to the entry form.

The entry form includes a declaration to confirm that the performer on the video is the named candidate; an adult witness needs to countersign the entry form.

If preferred, candidates can submit their entry online and upload a video of their performances via the RGT website – [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)

### Extra Information for Recorded Performance Awards:

The equipment used to record the performances need not be of a 'studio' quality, however it should be of sufficient quality that the examiner will be able to hear the candidate's performance clearly enough to enable a reliable assessment to be made. The fidelity of the recording itself will not be part of the assessment.

Edits, overdubs and drop-ins are all part of the armoury of techniques used by recording rock guitarists and so these are permitted. However, where these are used the results should be seamless; where they are poorly executed and sound obvious, the marking may be adversely affected.

Because recording the performances may allow candidates the opportunity to use edits and overdubs, and to have numerous attempts at performing a piece and then submitting their best take, the performance standard expected for a Recorded Performance Award is significantly higher than that expected for a Live Performance Award of the same Level.

A single CD disc containing all the performances should be submitted by post, together with the entry form. The candidate name should be clearly written on the disc. A list of the titles of all the pieces and their composers, in the order they are performed on the disc, should be attached to the entry form.

The entry form includes a declaration that the performer on the disc is the named candidate; an adult witness needs to countersign the entry form to confirm this.

If preferred, candidates can submit their entry online and upload the audio files of their performances via the RGT website – [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)

## Performance Awards Marking Scheme

Up to and including Level 5	up to 30% each for the first two pieces performed, up to 40% for the last piece performed
Levels 6-8	up to 25% for each piece performed

85-100% = Distinction

75-84.5% = Merit

65-74.5% = Pass

55-64.5% = Below Pass Upper Level

0-54.5% = Below Pass Lower Level

# How Marks Are Awarded

The guidelines below give a broad outline of the general standard expected for each mark category.

## *Live Performance Awards*

### **Full Marks:**

A fully confident and assured rendition of the pieces that displayed a clear awareness and understanding of the requirements for an effective rock guitar performance. Accuracy and timing were both secure throughout, with the candidate displaying mastery of the technical demands of all the pieces. At the higher levels, there should be both a clear awareness and control of dynamic and tonal contrasts.

### **Distinction:**

A highly confident and assured rendition, with a high level of accuracy and security of timing. Small and very occasional lapses in any of these detracted slightly from what was otherwise an effective rock guitar performance. At the higher levels, some awareness of dynamic and tonal contrast should be clearly displayed.

### **Merit:**

Accuracy, timing and control of the technical demands of the pieces should be generally secure, although there may be some lapses in these compared to Distinction. At the higher levels, the performances should display some confidence and awareness of dynamic and tonal contrast.

### **Pass:**

Accuracy and timing should be mostly secure throughout the performance but, compared to Merit, there may be some lapses in technical control and clarity. At the higher levels there should be some basic awareness of the control of dynamics and tone.

### **Below Pass – Upper Level:**

Some serious or numerous smaller lapses in accuracy or timing. Frequent lapses in technical control and clarity of tone. Nevertheless, showing some potential of attaining a Pass at this level.

### **Below Pass – Lower Level:**

Inaccuracies proportionately greater than correct playing. Overall the performance demonstrated a fundamental lack of musical awareness, technical control and fluency.

## *Filmed Performance Awards*

### **Full Marks:**

A highly engaging performance that demonstrated musical flair, as well as complete technical fluency and ability in all the pieces. The candidate sounds and appears at ease with the technical demands of the rock tracks being performed; both accuracy and timing are fully secure throughout. There should be sufficient variation in the pieces performed to demonstrate clear versatility in a range of rock guitar playing styles and techniques.

### **Distinction:**

An engaging performance with a high level of technical fluency and ability being displayed, resulting in very secure accuracy and timing. Small and very occasional lapses in any of these detracted slightly from what was otherwise an effective performance. There should be clear evidence of versatility in the techniques being presented, although slightly less developed compared to Full Marks.

### **Merit:**

Accuracy, timing and the degree of technical fluency displayed in the pieces should be generally secure, although there may be some lapses in these compared to Distinction. At higher levels in particular, evidence of versatility in the rock guitar playing techniques being used should be displayed.

**Pass:**

Accuracy and timing should be mostly secure throughout the performance but, compared to Merit, there may be some lapses in technical control, fluency and clarity. Some versatility in the playing techniques being used should be in evidence.

**Below Pass – Upper Level:**

Serious or numerous smaller lapses in accuracy or timing. Frequent lapses in technical control and clarity. Nevertheless, showing some potential of attaining a Pass at this level.

**Below Pass – Lower Level:**

Inaccuracies proportionately greater than correct playing. Overall the performance demonstrated a fundamental lack of musical awareness, technical control and fluency.

## ***Recorded Performance Awards***

**Full Marks:**

A seamless recording that displays a fully accurate and fluent rock guitar performance with no audible evidence of edits or overdubs. A clear sense of musical sensitivity that displayed an understanding of the nuances of an effective rock guitar performance. All elements of the performance were accurately and securely executed throughout, with a clear demonstration that the feel of the music had been captured. At higher levels, there should be an increasing display of musical individuality and creativity.

**Distinction:**

A highly fluent and seamless recording with a high level of accuracy and security of timing that contained no obvious evidence of edits or overdubs. Small and very occasional lapses in any of these detracted slightly from what was otherwise an effective rock guitar recording with a generally clear sense of musical sensitivity. At the higher levels, some awareness of musical individuality and creativity should be clearly displayed.

**Merit:**

A fluent and generally seamless recording that contained little evidence of edits or overdubs, with a generally high level of accuracy and security of timing. Lapses in any of these detract from a generally effective rock guitar recording with some clear sense of musical sensitivity.

At higher levels, some awareness of musical individuality and creativity should be displayed.

**Pass:**

Accuracy and timing should be mostly secure throughout the recording. There may be some small audible evidence of edits or overdubs. Compared to Merit, there may be some lapses in technical fluency, clarity and musical sensitivity. Some basic awareness of musical individuality and creativity should be in evidence at higher levels.

**Below Pass – Upper Level:**

Serious or numerous smaller lapses in accuracy or timing. Clearly audible evidence of edits or overdubs that detracted from the recorded performance. Frequent lapses in technical control and clarity. Nevertheless, showing some potential of attaining a Pass at this level.

**Below Pass – Lower Level:**

Inaccuracies proportionately greater than correct playing. Overall the recorded performance demonstrated insufficient musical awareness, technical control and fluency.

## Syllabus regulations and information

1. This syllabus is valid from 1st January 2012 until further notice. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain, and comply with, the current syllabus. RGT has a policy of consistent improvement and development and may, without notice, update regulations, syllabuses and other publications. Where alterations, additions and/or deletions to syllabuses take place, RGT cannot accept responsibility for informing candidates and teachers of such changes except through the RGT website, the RGT magazine *Guitar Tutor* and the normal reprinting process.
2. Exam periods and entry deadlines are provided on the exam entry forms, available from [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org) or by calling the RGT@LCM office (020 8231 2751).
3. The right to refuse, postpone or cancel the entry of any candidate is reserved. Entries are accepted subject to the regulations stated in this syllabus. Entry for exam constitutes an agreement on the part of the candidate to abide by the regulations.
4. A table of exam fees is provided on the entry forms and on the RGT website [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org). Once an exam has been entered, fees cannot be refunded nor entries postponed to a later examination session.
5. Only candidates officially entered will be examined; substitution of a candidate in place of a candidate originally entered will not be allowed.
6. Live Performance Awards exam appointments: An Attendance Notice detailing the date, time and venue of the examination will be issued to each candidate via Email (where this is provided on the entry form), or via the teacher or via the correspondence address on the entry form, not later than ten days before the date of the examination. This should be retained by the candidate, and handed to the examiner on the day of the exam. RGT should be informed immediately if there are any errors on the Attendance Notice. An incorrect exam level or subject cannot be changed on the day of the exam, and spelling corrections will incur a fee if notified after the issue of the certificate. Examiners will do their best to start exams at the stated appointment times, but examiners may sometimes need to start an exam slightly earlier or later than the stated time. Candidates should ensure that they arrive at the venue no later than 10 minutes before the scheduled time of the exam.
7. Small waiting areas are provided at exam venues for Live Performance Awards. In consideration to other candidates waiting for their exam, apart from one parent accompanying a minor, family and friends should not come into the waiting area with candidates.
8. Live Performance Awards are conducted in closed conditions. No-one, apart from the candidate and the examiner(s), is allowed into the exam room with the following exception: an approved person, such as a parent or teacher, or a language interpreter, where this concession has been granted prior to the exam as the result of a request for reasonable adjustments for a candidate with particular needs.
9. Fingering: Specified fingerings in RGT publications or other recommended publications should be taken as suggested guidelines only. Alternative systematic and effective fingerings will be accepted by examiners, unless they adversely affect the musical result.
10. Tuning: Candidates should tune their own instruments; the use of electronic tuners is permitted.

10. Use of photocopies: The use of photocopied music by candidates, unless authorised by the publisher or copyright holder, will not be permitted in the exam with the following exceptions:
  - (a) a photocopy of a page of a work for ease of performance due to a difficult page turn;
  - (b) a photocopy of a piece for the examiner's reference, provided the performer is using his or her own published edition;
  - (c) an enlarged or modified photocopy for candidates with particular needs, provided the original edition is also brought to the examination and presented to the examiner.

All such photocopies will be retained by the examiner, and destroyed at the end of the day's exams. Compliance with copyright law is the responsibility of the candidate and failure to comply may lead to disqualification and no marks or certificate being awarded.

11. Stopping candidates: Any gaps between pieces to change backing tracks, amp settings etc. must be undertaken by the candidate in an efficient and timely manner, and should not interrupt the flow of the performance or extend the duration of the performances beyond the exam time limit. Examiners may, at their discretion, stop a candidate at any part of a practical exam if the candidate has exceeded the time allowed for the exam.
12. Special consideration (including absence through illness): Candidates who are unable to take an exam at the scheduled time, for medical reasons, are invited to submit a signed doctor's letter indicating the reason, and accompanied by the Attendance notice, to the RGT office. The letter must be submitted within two weeks of the exam date, and must make clear that the candidate was incapacitated on the day of the scheduled exam. The candidate will then be permitted to re-enter for the same exam on payment of half the current fee. Candidates who are unwell on the day of the exam, but elect to take the exam nonetheless, will not be granted any special consideration in terms of assessment, and will not be eligible for a half-fee re-entry. Candidates who are unable to take an exam for compassionate reasons (e.g. death of a relative) are also covered under this policy.
13. When entering for a recorded or filmed Performance Award, candidates must sign a declaration confirming that the submitted performances are entirely their own work. This must be verified by an adult witness, who must supply their own name, address and contact details in case further verification is required. In addition, RGT may conduct sample checks and undertake further enquiries to confirm that the performances are candidates' own work. It may be an offence to attempt to obtain, or to help someone to obtain, a formal qualification by submitting work that has not genuinely been performed by the candidate, and RGT reserves the right to report any candidate who is discovered attempting to cheat by misrepresenting the work of another person as their own performances.
14. Exam results and certificates: A written report will be compiled for each exam. Candidates will be informed of the result of exam as soon as possible, and not normally later than eight weeks after the examination date, by post. Results cannot be issued over the telephone. Certificates for successful candidates are normally dispatched within eight weeks of the date of the exam.

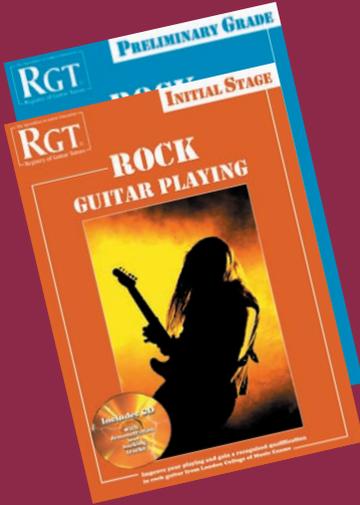
# Books for Performance Awards

## RGT Rock Guitar Playing – Initial Stage & Preliminary Grade

These two book/CD packages contain all the pieces for the RGT Initial and Preliminary Level Rock Guitar Performance Awards.

Each book contains the tab and notation for six great sounding rock guitar instrumentals – each specially composed to suit, and help develop, the technical abilities of beginner and novice rock guitar students. To make learning the pieces easier and quicker, the chords and scales on which the pieces are based are also included in the books.

The accompanying CDs include performance versions of each rock piece to listen to and learn from, as well as a full-band backing track for each piece (with the guitar-part omitted) to play along to.

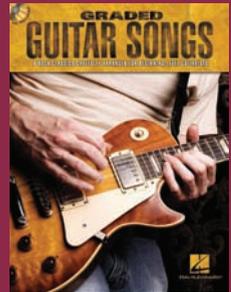


## Graded Guitar Songs – 9 Rock Classics for Beginning Level Guitarists (Book & CD)

Contains all the specially-arranged performance pieces for RGT Rock Guitar Performance Awards Levels 1 to 3:

*Smells Like Teen Spirit; Smoke on the Water; Sunshine of Your Love; Wonderful Tonight; Day Tripper; Should I Stay or Should I Go; All Right Now; Paranoid; Pinball Wizard.*

Notation is in both TAB and standard notation. The book also features helpful performance tips for each song. The accompanying CD contains both backing and demonstration tracks for each song.

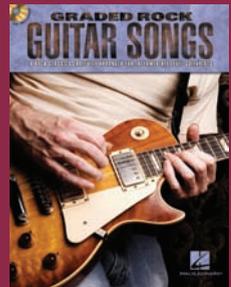


## Graded Rock Guitar Songs – 8 Rock Classics for Intermediate Guitarists (Book & CD)

Contains all the specially-arranged performance pieces for RGT Rock Guitar Performance Awards Levels 4 & 5:

*Layla; All Along the Watchtower; Sweet Home Alabama; Walk This Way; The Boys Are Back In Town; Sweet Child O' Mine; Under The Bridge; Always With Me, Always With You.*

Includes TAB and standard notation, and performance tips for each song. The accompanying CD contains both backing and demonstration tracks for each song.



## Levels 6 to 8

**The books containing the notation/tab and demo/backing tracks for the Level 6-8 rock guitar performance award pieces can be viewed at [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com)**

**Purchase the books above at  
<http://lcmusicshop.uwl.ac.uk>**