Grade One

Why These Exams?

After 25 years of teaching, being the coordinator of the London College of Music in Canada, and acting as the Registry of Guitar Tutors North American Representative, I feel these new exams are a more practical approach to the modern guitar player. I have taken my experiences, along with the best concepts of the RGT and Australian Board exams, and produced the CGTR exams (Canadian Guitar Teacher's Registry).

Grade 1 CGTR Exam

MODULE 1 – 40 Marks

Scales(4): Open Scales: - E Natural Minor

- E Blues

- G Pentatonic Major

Fretted Scale: - A Pentatonic Minor

Chords(4): Major: A, C, D, E, G

Minor: Am, Dm, Em Dominant 7th: A7, B7, D7, E7

Open Power Chords: E, A, D

Rhythm(16): You will be given a chord progression to be performed. The chords will be from

the above section, *Chords*. Time Signature, Tempo, Dynamics as well as the Chords played will be how you will be marked on this section. If the examiner chooses to do so, you may be given another chord progression to be tested on.

Improvisation(16): The examiner will play a collection of chords. Over these chords, you

will have to improvise some lead guitar using the scales from the above section, *Scales*. If decided, the examiner may play another set of chords

for you to improvise more lead guitar over.

MODULE 2: Reading Standard Notation – 24 Marks

1.) (16) You have to be able to play all the following songs in Standard Notation:

- Vancouver Bound - Over The Rockies

- Buffalo Jump - Riding The Fraser Rapids

- The Moon and Hudson Bay - Canuck Lament

- Grief Point - I Got the Blues In Whitehorse

The Examiner will ask you to play 2 of these songs. You can play them by reading its music. You do not have to memorize the songs.

- 2.) (4) You have to know the names of the notes in this book. The Examiner will ask you to play 5 notes.
- 3.) (4) You will be asked 4 questions on the basics of Music Notation.

MODULE 3: Performing a Song – 20 Marks

You can pick any songs (no longer than 4 minutes) – you have to play the song from the beginning to end. You can play the chords of the song as well as the lead guitar. You can play along to a CD of your desired song.

EXAMPLES: - Play *A-D-G* along with Warning (Green Day)
- Play *A7-D-G* along with Twist and Shout (The Beatles)

MODULE 4: Spoken Test – 16 Marks

1.) (6)Anatomy of the guitar: - (2)Parts of the Guitar

- (4)Tone Production

*Note: You will be asked to identify 4 parts of the Guitar.

2.) (10)Pick a Guitar Player from the list and research them. The Examiner will ask you questions:

EXAMPLES: - Why do you think they were so good?

- What bands have they performed in?

- What kind of music did they play?

- Name 3 songs they wrote.

Guitar Players:

- Eric Clapton
- Keith Richards
- Kurt Cobain
- Jimmy Page
- Jimi Hendrix