

# Electric Guitar Performance Diplomas

■ DipLCM ■ ALCM ■ LLCM ■ FLCM



Qualifications awarded and certificated by  
London College of Music Examinations  
Thames Valley University

Accredited by Ofqual

# London College of Music Examinations

Founded in 1887 as an establishment devoted to musical education, the London College of Music was incorporated as a public educational institution in 1939, and became part of Thames Valley University in 1991. Today, London College of Music Examinations enjoys an esteemed reputation as a major international music examination board.

London College of Music Examinations is an Ofqual accredited and DfES approved music examination board, with its qualifications awarded and certificated by Thames Valley University.

## Registry of Guitar Tutors

The Registry of Guitar Tutors (RGT) was established in 1992 with the aims of improving standards in guitar education and helping the guitar teaching profession achieve recognition within the mainstream of music education, by the establishment of an accredited range of comprehensive and well-structured teaching programmes. Growing from its base in the UK, RGT is now the world's largest organisation of guitar teachers and has branches in North America, New Zealand and many parts of Europe.

RGT publishes a web-based directory of registered guitar tutors, and organises regular music education conferences and training seminars. In association with LCM Exams, RGT also organises a full range of examinations in electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, popular music theory and classical guitar in many countries across the world.

### **RGT Board of Honorary Patrons:**

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



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# Overview of Performance Diplomas

**IMPORTANT:** This Information Booklet has been designed to provide a brief overview of the Electric Guitar Performance Diplomas. It is NOT intended to provide comprehensive and detailed information about each examination. Candidates considering taking one of the Diplomas should study the appropriate RGT Diploma handbook – each of which provides detailed information and examples of all sections of the examination. In addition, candidates should consult the complete Electric Guitar Performance Diploma Syllabus, which describes how the examinations are assessed and includes the official examination regulations. The syllabus is available as a free download from the RGT website: [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org).

(Candidates without internet access should send a large S.A.E. to the RGT office requesting a print-out of the syllabus.)

There are four levels of Performance Diploma available:

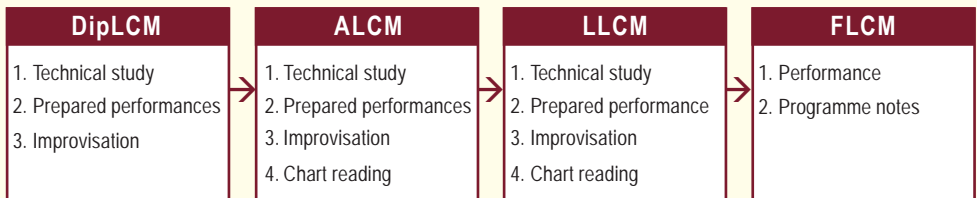
Diploma of The London College of Music – DipLCM

Associate of The London College of Music – ALCM

Licentiate of The London College of Music – LLCM

Fellowship of The London College of Music – FLCM

The diagram below lists the components within each diploma.



## Standards Expected For Each Diploma

**DipLCM in Performance.** Candidates who enter for this examination will be expected to demonstrate a standard of performance beyond that of Grade 8. Security of technique, and the ability to communicate an emerging and mature sense of musical personality, will be expected.

**ALCM in Performance.** Compared to DipLCM this diploma demands a higher standard of performance and musicianship. Security of technique, and the ability to communicate a degree of flair and imagination in performance, will be expected.

**LLCM in Performance.** This diploma demands a fully professional standard of performance and musicianship. An extremely secure and versatile technique, together with the ability to communicate a tangible sense of interpretative awareness and convincing musicianship, will be expected.

**FLCM in Performance.** This diploma, the highest awarded by Thames Valley University, demands a truly exceptional demonstration of performing ability of the very highest standard. In order to pass, the candidate must present a performance of a standard which one might expect to hear at a major concert venue, demonstrating a clear maturity of personality and interpretation.

## Pre-requisite Qualifications

**DipLCM in Performance:** There are no pre-requisite qualifications for this diploma.

**ALCM in Performance:** There are no pre-requisite qualifications for this diploma.

**LLCM in Performance:** Candidates should normally have already passed the ALCM in Performance in electric guitar or the ALCM(TD) in Teaching in electric guitar. However, candidates who feel they have relevant professional experience, and have attained the appropriate standard of performance, may apply to enter directly for the LLCM without holding previous qualifications. Such a candidate would be expected to have secured local or regional recognition as a professional performer. Such an application must be made in advance of entry in writing to the RGT Examinations Office, outlining the rationale for entering directly at this level, accompanied by evidence in the form of press cuttings, reviews etc., and supported by at least two references from professional musicians, who must not be the candidate's teacher. An administrative fee will be charged for this process (see current fee list).

**FLCM in Performance:** LLCM in Performance in electric guitar or LLCM(TD) in Teaching in electric guitar must normally be passed before entering this examination. However, candidates who feel they have relevant professional experience, and have attained the appropriate standard of performance, may apply to enter directly for the FLCM without holding previous qualifications. Such a candidate would be expected to have secured national or international recognition as a professional performer. Such an application must be made in advance of entry in writing to the RGT Examinations Office, outlining the rationale for entering directly at this level, accompanied by evidence in the form of press cuttings, reviews, concert programmes, CD recordings, etc., and supported by at least two references from professional musicians, who must not be the candidate's teacher. An administrative fee will be charged for this process (see current fee list).

## Description of Examination Components

### DipLCM in Performance

#### Component 1: Technical Study

The RGT DipLCM handbook supplies the notation and CD demo audio for three unaccompanied technical studies based on widely used scales, arpeggios and chords. Candidates should choose ONE of these to perform.

#### Component 2: Prepared Performances (from memory)

**a) Melodic Improvisation:** The RGT DipLCM handbook lists three classic rock/blues tunes: *Black Magic Woman* (Carlos Santana version); *Still Got The Blues* (Gary Moore); *Surfing With The Alien* (Joe Satriani). The handbook CD includes recordings of the main guitar themes from these tracks, as well as backing tracks for each. Candidates should choose ONE of these guitar themes to reproduce, interpret and develop.

**b) Rhythm Playing:** The RGT DipLCM handbook supplies three chord progressions with a CD drum and bass backing track for each. Candidates should choose ONE of these progressions to play rhythm guitar along to, creating their own rhythm part.

#### Component 3: Improvisation

**a) Lead Improvisation:** Candidates are shown a previously unseen diatonic chord progression that is then played by the examiner (either live or on CD). Candidates are allowed one minute to study the chord progression and should then improvise a lead solo over this.

**b) Rhythm Improvisation:** Candidates are shown a previously unseen chord progression. Candidates are allowed one minute to study the chord progression and should then play the chords improvising a rhythm part.

## ALCM in Performance

### Component 1: Technical Study

The RGT ALCM handbook supplies the notation and CD demo audio for three unaccompanied technical studies based on techniques such as string bends, legato, slides and vibrato. Candidates should choose ONE of these to perform.

### Component 2: Prepared Performances (from memory)

**a) Melodic Improvisation:** The RGT ALCM handbook lists three classic rock/blues tunes: Need Your Love So Bad (Peter Green version); Shine On You Crazy Diamond Part 1 (Pink Floyd); For The Love Of God (Steve Vai). The handbook CD includes recordings of the main guitar themes from these tracks, as well as backing tracks for each. Candidates are expected to choose ONE of these guitar themes to reproduce, interpret and develop. Compared to DipLCM there will be some increase in the duration and development in harmonic, melodic and rhythmic complexity. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a greater level of stylistic interpretation, fluency and technical ability.

**b) Rhythm Playing:** The RGT ALCM handbook supplies three chord progressions with a CD drum and bass backing track for each. Candidates should choose ONE of these progressions to play rhythm guitar along to, creating their own rhythm part. Compared to DipLCM the chords used will be more complex and a greater level of technical ability, stylistic interpretation and invention is expected.

### Component 3: Improvisation

**a) Lead Improvisation:** Candidates are shown a previously unseen predominantly diatonic chord progression that is then played by the examiner (either live or on CD). Candidates are allowed one minute to study the chord progression and should then improvise a lead solo over this. Compared to DipLCM a greater level of technical ability, fluency and stylistic interpretation is expected.

**b) Rhythm Improvisation:** Candidates are shown a previously unseen chord progression. Candidates are allowed one minute to study the chord progression and should then play the chords improvising a rhythm part. Compared to DipLCM the chords used will be more complex and a greater level of technical ability, stylistic interpretation and invention is expected.

### Component 4: Chart Reading

Candidates are shown a previously unseen chord chart with a notated rhythm part. Candidates are allowed three minutes to study this and should then play the chord chart.

## LLCM in Performance

### Component 1: Technical Study

The RGT LLCM-FLCM handbook supplies the notation and CD demo audio for three unaccompanied technical studies based on a range of advanced guitar techniques. Candidates should choose ONE of these to perform. Compared to ALCM the studies will be more complex and a greater level of technical ability is expected.

### Component 2: Prepared Performance (from memory)

Candidates should choose and perform a lead instrumental using a backing CD supplied by the candidate. The music can be a self-composition or an existing piece interpreted or arranged by the candidate and should last between three and six minutes. Although this is a 'free choice' section, and candidates are expected to do the research to source appropriate music, the RGT LLCM-FLCM handbook lists some examples of pieces to demonstrate the level expected.

### Component 3: Improvisation

**a) Lead Improvisation:** Candidates are shown a previously unseen chord progression that is then played by the examiner (either live or on CD). The progression will include some non-diatonic chords. Candidates are allowed one minute to study the chord progression and should then improvise a lead solo over this. Compared to ALCM a greater level of stylistic interpretation, fluency and technical ability is expected.

**b) Rhythm Improvisation:** Candidates are shown a previously unseen chord progression. Candidates are allowed one minute to study the chord progression and should then play the chords improvising a rhythm part. Compared to ALCM the chords used will be more complex and a greater level of technical ability, invention and stylistic interpretation is expected.

### Component 4: Chart Reading

Candidates are shown a previously unseen chord chart that will include chord symbols with a notated rhythm part as well as some single-line melodic parts in standard notation. Candidates are allowed five minutes to study the chart before performing it. Compared to ALCM, in addition to the inclusion of single-line notation, the chords and their rhythm will be more complex.

## FLCM in Performance

### Component 1: Performance (from memory)

Candidates should compile and perform a varied programme of music of approximately 45 minutes duration. The programme should consist of a free choice of music chosen by the candidate of sufficient technical and musical complexity to demonstrate the candidate's guitar playing skills and range and breadth of musicianship. The programme should include some variety of style, mood and tempo. Although this is a 'free choice' section, and candidates are expected to do the research to source appropriate music, the RGT LLCM-FLCM handbook lists some examples of pieces to demonstrate the technical level expected.

Pieces should mostly be performed either over a backing CD supplied by the candidate or with one or more accompanists supplied by the candidate, although up to 25% of the performance may consist of solo unaccompanied pieces if preferred. An electric guitar must be used throughout. The performance may include vocals, by the candidate or a vocalist, provided that the guitar parts are prominent and sufficient enough to fully display the candidate's playing.

Candidates must perform a programme of the highest professional standard. The performance should be worthy of a prestigious music venue. Candidates are encouraged to include an own composition within the programme. The FLCM performance may take place in front of an audience, provided that this has been agreed in advance with the RGT Examinations Office and that it does not affect the normal examination procedure (e.g. intervals are not permitted).

### Component 2: Programme Notes

Candidates should prepare and supply original programme notes providing an in-depth harmonic and melodic analysis of the music performed in Component 1. These programme notes must be typewritten and should in total be between 1000 and 1500 words. The style and approach should be intelligent and informed, and may assume an educated readership.

Two copies of the programme notes should be brought to the examination room and handed to the examiners.

## Marking scheme

A maximum of 100 marks may be awarded for the DipLCM, ALCM and LLCM. Candidates must attain a total of 75% in order to pass these Diploma examinations.

### DipLCM in Performance:

|                        |                              |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Technical Study<br>20% | Prepared Performances<br>40% | Improvisation<br>40% |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|

### ALCM in Performance:

|                        |                              |                      |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Technical Study<br>15% | Prepared Performances<br>50% | Improvisation<br>25% | Chart reading<br>10% |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

### LLCM in Performance:

|                        |                             |                      |                      |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Technical Study<br>15% | Prepared Performance<br>25% | Improvisation<br>50% | Chart reading<br>10% |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|

### FLCM in Performance:

No marks are awarded for FLCM, instead both components must be 'approved' in order to be awarded this Diploma.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How Do I Enter?**

Download a Performers Diploma entry form from the RGT website ([www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org)). Closing dates for entry and entry fee lists are listed on the RGT website. If you do not have internet access call the RGT office on 01424 222222.

### **What Do I Get If I Pass?**

Candidates who successfully complete a Performance Diploma in electric guitar will receive an official Thames Valley University / London College of Music Exams Diploma certificate. In addition, successful candidates are permitted to append the letters 'DipLCM', 'ALCM', 'LLCM' or 'FLCM', as appropriate, to their name. Successful candidates are also permitted to wear the appropriate academic gown, cap or hood of the London College of Music (see syllabus for details).

### **When Will I Get The Result?**

A written report will be posted within four weeks of the examination date. Results cannot be issued over the telephone. Certificates for successful candidates are normally dispatched within 16 weeks of the date of the examination.

### **If I Don't Pass Do I Need To Re-take The Whole Examination?**

Yes, all components must be completed on re-examination. The only exception is for FLCM (see syllabus for details).

### **Where And When Are Diploma Examinations Held?**

In the UK, examinations are held three times a year: Spring (March/April), Summer (June/July) and Winter (November/December). Overseas candidates should contact their RGT national representative or the RGT UK Head Office for details of examination dates. DipLCM examinations may be held at a wide range of exam centres. Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas are normally examined by a panel of two examiners and, dependent upon the number of entrants from each area, these examinations may only take place at a limited range of exam centres (for example, in the UK candidates should be prepared to travel to London for their examination).

### **Can I Use An Acoustic Guitar For The Examination?**

No, an electric guitar must be used.

### **Do I Need To Bring An Amplifier?**

The examiner will provide a small amplifier and CD player. Candidates may bring their own amplifier, effects units and CD player or other playback system if preferred providing these can be set up quickly and independently

### **Where Can I Obtain More Information?**

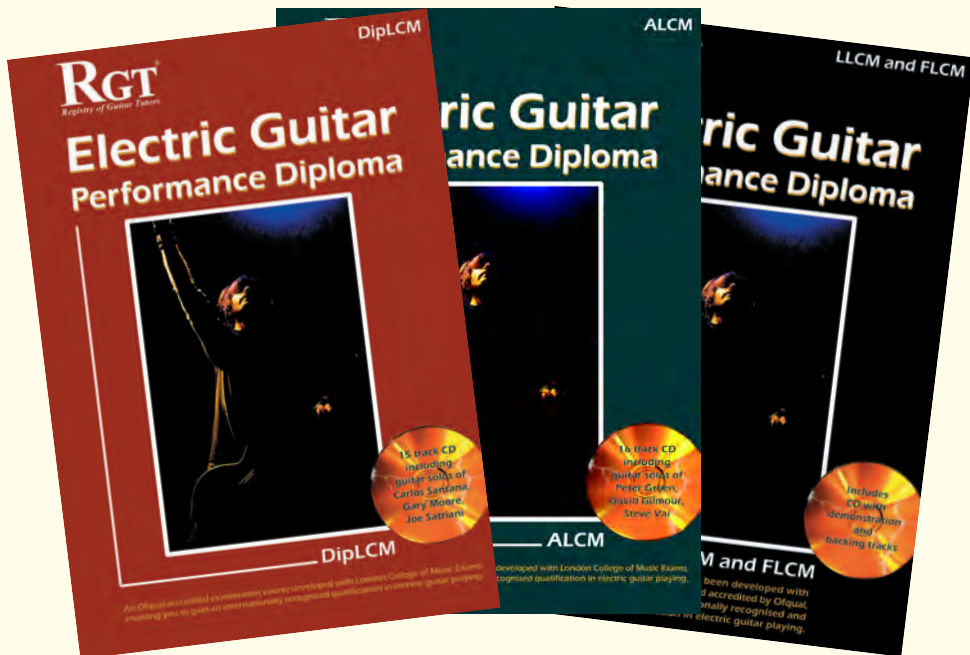
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# RGT Electric Guitar

## Performance Diploma Handbooks

### DipLCM • ALCM • LLCM/FLCM

(CD included with each book)



### Develop Your Playing To Your Full Potential

Even if you do not intend to take an exam, these books will help you develop all aspects of your playing in a structured way.

### Get Motivated

Preparing for a Diploma will encourage you to achieve your guitar playing potential by setting yourself a challenging target to aim for.

### Gain An Internationally-Recognised Qualification

Studying these books will prepare you to gain an Ofqual-accredited internationally-recognised Diploma from London College of Music Exams.

### How To Obtain The Handbooks

Available from many music and book shops. See [www.RGT.org](http://www.RGT.org) for a list of stockists.

Credit card orderline: 01424 222222

Order online at: [www.BooksForGuitar.com](http://www.BooksForGuitar.com)

