



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

Welcome to the County Junior Orchestra 2025 – 2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's County Junior Orchestra (CJO).

Whether you are a brand-new member, or returning for another year, we are excited for you to be a part of the NMPAT community, and look forward to an exciting year of learning, lots of fun and fantastic experiences together.

This letter, along with any other communication from us throughout the year, will be available on the NMPAT website, as well as being emailed directly to families: www.nmpat.co.uk/letters

Rehearsals

Your conductors for this year are Miss Carter and Mr Ebrahim. Our rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings, from 6.00pm – 8.30pm. We would usually start with sectionals rehearsals, before meeting as a whole orchestra in the Edmund Rubbra Hall.

For our first rehearsal, on **Thursday 4th September**, please meet as a **full orchestra**, in the Edmund Rubbra Hall, where you will be able to find your seat and we can meet everyone together. For the following weeks, your sectional room can be found below. Please collect your child promptly at 8.30pm each week.

Sectional rehearsals, 6.00 – 6.45pm

Violin 1 – Miss Kelly, Room 4
Violin 2 – Ms Rochelle, Room 5
Viola – Mr Ebrahim, Room 7
Cello – Mrs Hubble, Room 3

Double Bass – Mrs Meads, stay in main hall
Woodwind – Miss Carter, Room 26
Brass – Mr Batty, Room 27
Percussion – Mr Breslin, Percussion Room

Access to the NMPAT building is controlled by a keypad. The code was included in the email to which this letter was attached. Please do not share this code with anyone, and, although it's tempting to be polite, try to avoid holding the door open for anyone who isn't in your group.

Please try to tell us in advance if you know you are not able to attend a rehearsal for any reason. the easiest way to do this is online, via iPresto. You can also email us using the details at the end of this letter, or contact the main office on 01604 637117. We take online registers for all County Ensembles, using iPresto. This means that an automatically generated email will be sent home if you are not at a rehearsal and we don't already know that you are going to be absent.

Full details and term dates can be found on our website at www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles

Open evening

Before our first rehearsal, you are invited to come to the NMPAT open evening. Particularly if you are in a moving to a new group this year, you may like to familiarise yourself with a different part of the building before your first rehearsal. Anyone is welcome – families included – anytime from 4.00-6.00pm, on **Monday 1st September**.

The Friends of NMPAT

The Friends of Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (FNMPAT) are an invaluable support to the work the County Ensembles, providing refreshments at rehearsals and concerts and arranging the sale of the ever-popular NMPAT Hoodies! Funds raised go towards subsidising the cost of travel to out-of-county events, and purchasing specialist instruments for use in County Ensembles.

The Friends need the involvement of parents and supporters to continue to provide all that they do, and any help is welcome. You will find members of the Friends in the Common Room / kitchen at NMPAT – do please have a conversation if you think you might be able to help in any way.

Frontier Residential Course

Thursday 30th to Friday 31st October 2025

This is a really great opportunity for us to spend some time getting to know each other and building friendships, as well as getting some extra rehearsal time in before our first performance and to introduce new music for later in the year. There will be all sorts of activities so please do make sure you register using the online form, no later than Friday 26th September. If you are not able to attend the course for any reason, please still use the online form so that we have accurate information all in one place.

<https://bit.ly/CJO-CJWOFrontier2025>

We will write again, nearer to the course, with a bit more information. For now, details can be found on our website: www.nmpat.co.uk/courses

Events and performances

Concerts – These are where all your hard work and contribution to the team can be showcased and celebrated. Please put these important dates in your diary, and let us know as soon as possible if you have any availability clashes:

- **Thursday 30th – Friday 31st October** – Residential course at The Frontier Centre
- **Saturday 22nd November** – Autumn Festival of Music, Spinney Theatre, NSG, (7.00pm start)
- **Sunday 8th March** – Orchestra Spectacular, Derngate, Northampton, (6.00pm start)
- **Sunday 5th July** – New Generation, Derngate, Northampton, (12.00noon start)

The most up to date information on all NMPAT concerts and events can be found on our online events calendar – which you can also link to your own personal calendar, if you would like to:
www.nmpat.co.uk/events.

Concert dress: for all performances our dress code will be a white shirt or blouse, black trousers or skirt, black socks or tights and clean black shoes. Skirts should be at or below knee length, and worn with black tights.

We are really looking forward to working with you this year, and will see you at our first rehearsal on **Thursday 4th September**, ready for a 6.00pm start.

Miss Pam Carter and Mr Sam Ebrahim
Co-conductors of the County Junior Orchestra
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