



## **Welcome to County Training Brass Band 2025 – 2026**

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's County Training Brass Band! 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 sharing music and performing arts with you.

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](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/letters)

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals take place on Tuesdays during term time, in Room 5 at NMPAT. This is found through Door 3 and up the stairs. We start at 6.15pm, so please arrive in plenty of time to warm up, and be ready to play at 6.15pm. We finish at 8.15pm and there will be a short break.

Our first rehearsal will be on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. Full details and term dates can be found on our website at [www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles)

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 that 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.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

We have a residential course at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough, planned for **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October**. County Training Wind Orchestra will also be on the course with us, and we might spend some time as a massed ensemble as well as in our own band rehearsals.

This is a really great opportunity for us to spend some time getting to know each other, as well as getting some extra rehearsal time in before our first performance. Please do make sure you register using the online form, no later than Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. If you're 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/CTBBCTWOFrontier2025>

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](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/courses)

## Events and performances

Please make a note of all our planned performances, and let us know as soon as possible if you can foresee any availability clashes. These dates are correct at the time of writing:

- **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October** – Frontier Centre residential course
- **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – Autumn Festival of Music at Spinney Theatre (7.00pm start)
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> or Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – TBC. Possible performance at the MFY Regional Festival, in Northampton
- **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** – National Youth Brass Band Championships in Birmingham.
- **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April** – Brass Band Spectacular at Spinney Theatre (6.00pm start)
- **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July** – Summer Festival of Music: Second Generation Concert at Derngate, Northampton (6.00pm 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](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/events)

**Concert dress** – we will perform in white shirts and black trousers/skirts with black socks/tights and clean black shoes. All skirts should be at or below knee length and worn with thick black tights.

We are really looking forward to working with you this year, and look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**.

Brad Turnbull and James Blake  
CTBB Conductors

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