



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

## Welcome to County Youth Brass Band 2025 – 2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's County Youth 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

Our first rehearsal will take place on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. Rehearsals take place in the Theatre Area - please use Door 7 to access the building. Instrument cases should be left in Room 27 ('the blue room').

Rehearsals start at 9.15am, so please ensure that you are in your seat, warmed up and ready to start playing at that time. Between 10.00am and 11.00am, we are fortunate to have Mr Butler with us to support our percussion team and we then have a 15-minute break, from 11.00-11.15am. Rehearsals finish at 12.15pm. Please help to tidy away chairs and stands at the end of rehearsal. Our percussionists will always appreciate anyone willing to lend a hand in moving the instruments back into the percussion room!

Please ensure that you bring your music and a pencil with you to all rehearsals. Jason, our librarian, works hard to ensure that all members have their own copy of each piece we play, and writing things on your music will be invaluable when practising at home.

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 me using the details below, 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](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles)

### Open evening

Before County Ensemble rehearsals recommence, you are invited to the NMPAT open evening. This is an opportunity to re-familiarise yourself with the building, and make sure you know where to go before your first rehearsal. If you've been attending NMPAT for a long time, you may feel comfortable supporting younger students on their first open evening – please let us know if you would like to help show new families around ([office@nmpat.co.uk](mailto:office@nmpat.co.uk))

Anyone is welcome, 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.

## Events and performances

Our performance dress is black collared shirt or blouse, black trousers (no jeans) or skirt, black socks or tights with clean, smart black shoes. Key dates for 2025-26 are:

- **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November** – Youth in Concert, Derngate, 6.00pm start.
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup>/Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Tree of Love, Northampton Cathedral. Small group TBC.
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March** – Music for Youth Regional Festival, Spinney Theatre. Full details TBC.
- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April** – Brass Festival, Spinney Theatre, 6.00pm start.
- **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July** – Summer Winds and Brass, Cripps Hall Theatre, 7.00pm 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)

## Additional opportunities

In addition to County Ensembles, we offer a wide range of additional opportunities to support your musical journey. Some details are included below and you can find more information on our website.

- **Theory classes** - students taking ABRSM exams on their instrument / voice will need to have Grade 5 Theory in order to take the Grade 6 instrument / voice exam. For those students not taking ABRSM exams, it's a useful qualification to help develop your musical knowledge and understanding. For more information and to register for classes, please go to [www.nmpat.co.uk/theory](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/theory)
- **Aural classes** - to assist with ABRSM and Trinity College London exams, we offer additional Aural Classes. These are fully funded for NMPAT County Ensemble members. For more information and to register for classes, please go to [www.nmpat.co.uk/aural](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/aural)
- **Music Production** – classes take place online, via Zoom, on Tuesday evenings and are open to anyone, with no prior experience required. For more information and to register, please go to [www.nmpat.co.uk/production](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/production)

I am really looking forward to working with you this year, and look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal, on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

Rob Fleming  
CYBB Conductor  
[rfleming@nmpat.co.uk](mailto:rfleming@nmpat.co.uk)