



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

Welcome to County Youth Concert Band 2025 – 2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's CYCB! Whether you are a brand-new member or returning for another year, I am 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

Rehearsals

Our first rehearsal will be on **Friday 5th September** (6.15-9.00pm). Full term dates can be found at www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles

Usually, rehearsals will start with sectionals, and we will come together as a band at 7.00pm. **For the first week, we will all meet together in the Edmund Rubbra Hall.** Please make sure you arrive in good time to warm up and be ready to play at 6.15pm.

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.

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) Anyone is welcome, 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.

Events and performances

Please put the following dates in your family calendar and let me know **as soon as possible** if you can foresee any availability clashes. It is important that all band members can attend and I need to be able to plan around any unavoidable absences.

- **Sunday 16th November** – Youth in Concert at Derngate, Northampton (6.00pm start)
- **Sunday 23rd November** – NCBF Regional event at Cripps Hall Theatre, Northampton School for Boys, time TBC.
- **Friday 19th December** – End of Term Concert at Spinney Theatre, NSG, (7.00pm start)
- **Sunday 15th March** – Wind Band Spectacular at Derngate, Northampton (6.00pm start)
- **Sunday 22nd March** – MFY Regional Festival at Cripps Hall Theatre, NSB, time TBC
- **Sunday 12th April** – NCBF Finals, subject to invitation, time TBC. **** this is during the Easter holidays, please double check availability! ****
- **Thursday-Saturday 9-11th July** – MFY Finals, Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Subject to invitation, date/time TBC.
- **Sunday 12th July** – Summer Winds and Brass, Cripps Hall Theatre, NSB, (6.00 pm start)

Concert dress will either be all black or black trousers / white shirt with black jacket. I will confirm in advance of each event.

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

I'd like to reiterate the importance of letting me know about **absences from performances as early as possible**. Many parts in this ensemble are individual, and an absence from a performance means I need to try to find a replacement player. This can be challenging, especially on instruments where there are fewer people available. Please do let me know as soon as you can if you know you cannot make a performance, preferably via email.

I look forward to seeing you at the first rehearsal on **Friday 5th September**. We have an incredible year ahead of us where we will learn some exciting and very challenging repertoire, including a UK premier of a piece that has just been acquired into the Smithsonian National Museum of American History! If you'd like to have a listen to some of the pieces we're going to be learning this year, I've compiled a playlist on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/BBYmIrFhqZM?si=oeZgg-jl5k5EMuCW>

Meghan Foster
CYCB Conductor
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