



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

## County Clarinet Choir 2025 – 2026

Thank you for accepting your place in the County Clarinet Choir! Whether you are a brand new member, or returning for another year, I'm looking forward to an exciting year of music-making with you. The Clarinet Choir operates in a slightly more relaxed way to the larger county ensembles...for those of you who are new to the group you'll soon get used to it, I promise! This letter, along with any other communication from me 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

Clarinet Choir rehearses on **Tuesdays** in the Edmund Rubbra Hall, also known as the Lower Hall, from **5.45 – 6.45pm**. Our first rehearsal of the year will be **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**.

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 me 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 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 I 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)

### Placings

To begin with, I would like every player to bring along their normal Bb clarinet to rehearsals. This year's choir is quite large and, whilst I have an idea about players for the auxiliary clarinets that we use in the group (Eb soprano, alto, bass and contra-bass), it may take a week or two to completely settle down, so having everyone with their normal clarinets will be useful.

### Concerts

I will write prior to each concert and event, but wanted to get some dates in your diaries straight away. Please make a note of these dates and let me know in advance if you have any problems with them. The repertoire we play in Clarinet Choir often splits up every desk into individual parts so knowing in advance will help me to plan around any gaps that we might have, or highlight that we may need to look at alternative dates.

At the time of writing, these are the dates I know about for Clarinet Choir:

<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	Chamber Concert at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Northampton (7.00pm start)
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> or Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	Music for Youth Regional Festival (day / time tbc)
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Chamber Concert at St Benedict's Church, 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: [www.nmpat.co.uk/events](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/events)

## Concert Dress

Clarinet Choir performs in **all black** concert dress. Please make sure your concert dress is appropriate and avoid things like black jeans, white socks etc.

## 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.

Thanks again for agreeing to play in Clarinet Choir; I hope you find it a fun group to be involved with and a rewarding musical experience. If you have any questions or concerns please do get in touch and I will do my best to help.

Best wishes

Andy Kirkwood

Director: County Clarinet Choir

[akirkwood@nmpat.co.uk](mailto:akirkwood@nmpat.co.uk)