



Welcome to NMPAT Singers 2025 – 2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's NMPAT Singers! 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

Rehearsals

Our first rehearsal will be on **Wednesday 10th September** and we will meet each Wednesday during term time. Full details and term dates can be found on our website at www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles

Rehearsals take place from 5.45-7.15pm in the Edmund Rubbra Hall, which is accessed through Door 2, on the right hand side. Please arrive in plenty of time to warm up and be ready to sing together at 5.45pm. For every rehearsal, you will need a pencil, your music, and a drink of water.

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 our first rehearsal, you are invited to come to the NMPAT open evening – to meet some of the staff, be shown to our rehearsal room, and familiarise yourself with the building.

Some of you may not have been to the building, apart from for your audition, and whilst it is very beautiful, it is also quite large! We want to make sure you feel comfortable in knowing where to go and what to do when you arrive for 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.

Events and performances

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

- **Wednesday 10th December** – Choirs at Christmas, at Northampton Cathedral (7.00pm start)
- **Saturday 14th, 21st or Sunday 22nd March** – TBC. Music for Youth Regional Festival
- **Wednesday 22nd April** – Spring Song, at Christ Church, Northampton (7.00pm start)
- **Wednesday 6th May** – open rehearsal, Venue TBC. (normal rehearsal time)
This is an opportunity for new students to come and join us for a rehearsal, to find out what it's like to be part of a County Ensemble. There will be a short, informal performance to friends and family at the end – details to follow.
- **Sunday 5th July** – New Generation Concert, at Derngate, Northampton (12.00 noon 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: we will perform wearing all black, including clean black shoes. Any skirts/dresses should be at or below knee length, and worn with black tights.

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

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

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

Centres: as an existing County Ensemble member, you are entitled to join a Centre for just £30 per term! Please let the NMPAT Office (nmpat@office.co.uk) know if you would like to utilise this offer. Some Centres also offer leadership and work experience opportunities for older students. More information can be found at www.nmpat.co.uk/centres

I am really looking forward to working with you this year, and look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal on **Wednesday 10th September**.

Mary Jane Dixon
Director: NMPAT Singers
mjdixon@nmpat.co.uk