



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Inspire • Nurture • Excel

## Welcome to County String Sinfonia 2025 – 2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's County String Sinfonia! Whether you are a brand new member, or returning for another year, I am excited for you to be a part of the orchestra, 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 rehearsals take place each Monday during term time, from 7.10-9.00pm, in the Richard Coles Hall. Our first rehearsal will be on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September** and full details, including term dates, can be found at [www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles](http://www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles)

Please ensure you arrive in good time to warm up and start playing together at 7.10pm. You will need to bring a pencil and your music to every rehearsal. You may also wish to bring a snack, or some money for the tuck shop.

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 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](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

The following dates are correct at the time of writing – please make a note of these and let me know as soon as possible if you can foresee any availability clashes.

- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** – Chamber Concert at Mount Pleasant Church, Northampton (7.00pm start)
- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February** – String Spectacular, Venue TBC.(6.00pm start)
- **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> or Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** – Music for Youth Regional Festival (details tbc.)
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July** – Summer Strings Concert, Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell (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)

**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](mailto: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](http://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 **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**.

Richard Smith  
Director: County String Sinfonia  
[rsmith@nmpat.co.uk](mailto:rsmith@nmpat.co.uk)