



Welcome to Northamptonshire County Youth Big Band 2025-2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's CYBigB! 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 **Monday 8th September** and we will meet each Monday in term time. Members of the rhythm section will rehearse with Mr Round from 6.15-7.00pm, and then full band rehearsal will run from 7.00-9.00pm. All rehearsals will take place in the Edmund Rubbra Hall, which is found through Door 2 and then turn right. Full term dates can be found at www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles

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 19th October** – Big Band Workshop Day at NMPAT (12.00noon – 6.00pm)
- **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.
- **Sunday 1st February** – Big Band Night at the Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering (6.00pm start)
- **Saturday 14th, 21st or Sunday 22nd March** – MFY Regional Festival (time and date TBC)
- **Sunday 12th April** – NCBF Finals, subject to invitation, time TBC. **** this is during the Easter holidays, please double check availability! ****
- **Monday 29th June** – Summer Jazz at The Picturedrome, Northampton (7.00pm start)

Concert dress is smart dark suits with clean dark shoes.

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 notify the NMPAT Office (office@nmpat.co.uk) 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

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 am excited to be working with you all this year and look forward to seeing you at the first rehearsal on **Monday 8th September**.

Nikki Hannent-Corbett

Director: CYBigB

nhannentcorbett@nmpat.co.uk