



Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

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8th September 2025

Dear CYO Members and Parents

Proposed Tour to Czechia, July 2026

As you may know, NMPAT has traditionally offered opportunities for some of its senior groups to travel abroad. In 2026, it is proposed to invite members of the County Youth Orchestra to join a tour to Czechia (Czech Republic).

The tour will depart on Thursday 16th July, returning home on Thursday 23rd July. We will be based in Plzeň, with proposed concerts in Kladruba, Mariánské Lázně, Prague and Tachov. Travel will be by two coaches, driven by a team of four drivers. We will also be taking an equipment van. The tour will be staffed by members of the NMPAT teaching team, led by myself. During our time in Czechia, we will be accompanied by a local bi-lingual courier. The whole tour will be organised by Specialised Travel Concert Touring, (STCT), the largest specialist Arts Travel organisation in the world.

Please note that travel regulations for coach tours, now that we are no longer part of the EU, means that it is more difficult to change the composition of the party during the course of the tour. Students travelling with the group should expect to return on the coach with the rest of the party.

The cost of the tour will be £1,135 per student. This includes all travel, meals on a half-board basis, a tour polo shirt and travel insurance for the duration of the trip.

In order for us to assess the viability of the tour, please complete this online application form: <https://forms.office.com/e/w6Vp509xBW> A non-refundable deposit of £200 is required to secure a place, to be paid **no later than Friday 31st October**.

If you are not able to join the tour, please indicate this using the online form.

If you wish to finance the tour by standing order, please indicate this on the online form. Alternatively, you can pay through Parent Pay, which also allows for staged payments if you wish. Payments can be made at any time, and full payment of any balance is due by **Monday 13th April 2025**. Any student withdrawing from the tour after 13th April will be required to pay the full cost of the tour. Please note, there is no cancellation insurance.

Obviously, at this point, the arrangements are provisional and will be dependent on the majority of members being able to come. In the event of the tour not being viable, all monies would be returned. NMPAT is not in a position to subsidise individuals, but in case of financial hardship some funds may be available from our Friends' Association and the Gordon Robinson Memorial Trust. Parents wishing to make an application for financial support should contact me for a confidential discussion **before the end of October**. Details of other local Trusts and Foundations which may be able to support costs can be found in the financial support section on our website: www.nmpat.co.uk/support. NMPAT is an inclusive organisation, and we will always do whatever we can to help ensure that finances are not a barrier to participation in any of our activities, including concert tours.

This tour promises to be an unforgettable musical experience for those able to attend, and I hope that most students will be able to come with us. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain McKnight', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Iain McKnight
Director of Ensembles and Partnerships
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