



Welcome to Jazz 2 2025 – 2026

Congratulations on being awarded a place in this year's Jazz 2! 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

The first rehearsal will be **Monday 8th September**, 5.30pm to 6.15pm for the rhythm sectional and 6.30pm to 8.30pm for the full band. Both rhythm sectional and full band rehearsals will be in room 5.

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 the trust office. office@nmpat.co.uk, or telephone the main office on 01604 637117. You can email me directly too mbutler@nmpat.co.uk

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.

Full details and term dates can be found on our website at www.nmpat.co.uk/countyensembles

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 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

Concert dates are included below - please make sure you make a note of these, and let me know as soon as possible if you foresee any availability clashes:

- **Sunday 19th October** - Big Band Workshop Day at NMPAT (12.00noon – 6.00pm)
- **Saturday 22nd November** - Autumn Festival of Music, Spinney Theatre (3.00pm start)
- **Sunday 1st February** - Big Band Night, Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering (6.00pm start)
- **Saturday 14th, 21st or Sunday 22nd March** - TBC. Music for Youth Regional Festival
- **Friday 12th June** - Red Hot Jazz, Brackley Town Football Club (7.00pm start)
- **Sunday 5th July** - Second Generation Concert, Derngate, Northampton (6.00pm)

Concert dress is all black, including shoes, and a snazzy tie.

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

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 **Monday 8th September**.

Matt Butler

Director: Jazz 2

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