



Welcome to County Youth Orchestra – Spring Term 2026

Welcome to the Spring Term! We are looking forward to working with you again over the coming term. This letter provides some updates to concerts, events and first and last rehearsals of the term.

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

Rehearsal key dates

- **First rehearsal of the term** - Saturday 10th January
- **Half term** (no rehearsal on these dates) - Saturday 14th & 21st February
- **Last rehearsal of the term** - Saturday 24th March

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. Any changes since your initial welcome letter are highlighted in **yellow** below. These dates are correct at the time of writing:

- **Sunday 8th March** – Orchestra Spectacular at Derngate, Northampton (6.00pm start)
- **Saturday 4th July** - End of Year Concert at Spinney Theatre, Northampton, (3.00pm 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

CYO performs in **all black** concert dress. Please note that we require musicians to dress smartly for concerts; items such as jeans, trainers, white socks, excessively high heels, short skirts, low-cut tops etc. are not appropriate concert dress and should not be worn.

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 or kitchen area at NMPAT – do please have a conversation if you think you might be able to help in any way.

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

We are really looking forward to working with you this term and look forward to seeing you at our next rehearsal on **Saturday 17th January**.

John Bickerdike and Richard Smith
CYO Conductors

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