



NCBF East Midlands Regional Festival

Sunday 23 November 2025

Cripps Hall Theatre

Northampton

NN1 5RT

It's with considerable excitement that we welcome you to the 2025 East Midlands Regional Festival of the National Concert Band Festival at the venue here at the Cripps Hall, Northampton.

Today's bands are performing their programmes for our adjudicators who will measure what is seen and heard with a particular level of musical achievement as per the NCBF Criteria.

Those bands receiving a Platinum award (and maybe some Golds) will be invited to perform at the NCBF National Festival to be held at the RNCM, Manchester on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 2026.

Our thanks to Northampton School for Boys for hosting today's festival with special thanks to the staff involved for the support we have received.

We hope you enjoy the day – you have a vital role to play in creating the atmosphere.

Have a go yourself at seeing how the bands performance meets the criteria at the end of this programme.

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Adjudicators: Simone Rebello and Gerard Booth

Compere: Barrie Johnson

Today's Programme

0915 Northamptonshire County Youth Concert Band (YWB)

Conductor: Meghan Foster

Pabiaga's Heart

Nicola Renshaw

Dusk

Steven Bryant

Tempered Steel

Charles Rochester Young

0945 Northampton Concert Band (CWB)

Conductor: Graham Tear

Much Ado About Nothing (*Shakespeare Pictures*)

Nigel Hess

Serenade

Derek Bourgeois

Invictus The Unconquered

Philip Sparke

1015 Staffordshire Community Wind Orchestra (CWB)

Conductor: Gavin Lamplough

Sky's The Limit

Robert Buckley

With Each Sunset (Comes the Promise of a New Day)

Richard L Saucedo

Three Klezmer Minatures

Philip Sparke

Jitterbug

Robert Buckley

1045 Warwick School Supertones (JWB)

Conductor: Simon Blake

The Batman Theme

Elfman arr. Story

Big Screen Fanfare

James Rae

The Incredibles

Gaicchino arr. Murtha

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1115 Stafford Grammar School Concert Band (SWB)

Conductor: Gavin Lamplough

Striding Edge

Duncan Stubbs

Sky Dance

Richard L Saucedo

Flute Dance – Night Soliloquy

Kent Kennan

Jitterbug

Robert Buckley

1145 Warwick Schools Foundation Wind Orchestra (SWB)

Conductor: Anton Clarke-Butler

Dance No. 1 (Jazz Suite)

Shostakovich

Whispers from Beyond

Rossano Galante

Incantation and Dance

John Barnes Chance

1220 Presentation of Awards



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1315 Warwick School Little Big Band (JBB)

Director: David Storer

Killer Joe

Chameleon

A Night in Tunisia

Doxy

Golson arr. Sweeney

Mason/Maupin/Jackson/Hancock

Gillespie arr. Storer

Rollins arr. Sweeney

1345 Northampton School for Boys Big Band (SBB)

Director: James Glew

Solar

In her family

TuTu

Chuck Wayne arr. Stitzel

Pat Metheny arr. Curnow

Marcus Miller arr. Mossman

1415 Warwick School Big Band (SBB)

Director: Tom Lindsay

Cantaloupe Island

Blues in Hoss Flat

What Is Hip

Herbie Hancock arr. Kamuf

Basie/Foster arr. Taylor

Kupka/Castillo/Garibaldi

1445 Stafford Grammar School Big Band (SBB)

Director: Gavin Lamplough

Opus One

Sweet Emma

Five Foot Two, Blue Eyes

Slim Chickens

Sy Oliver arr. Nowak

Nat Adderley arr. Kamuf

Paul Severson

Kris Berg

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1515 Corby Business Academy Big Band (SBB)

Director: Brad Turnbull

Mack the Knife

Kurt Weill arr. Stitzel

Caracas

Lou Donaldson arr. White

What Makes You Beautiful

Kotecha/Yacoub/Falk arr. Berry

1545 Warwick School Jazz Lab (SBB)

Director: David Storer

Bernies's Tune

Miller arr. Wolpe

Nye Time

Mike Dana

'Round Midnight

Williams/Monk arr. Wolpe

Johnny Come Lately

Strayhorn arr. Morales

1615 Northamptonshire County Youth Big Band (YBB)

Director: Nikki Hannent-Corbett

Fun Time

Sammy Nestico

Hymn for Her

Fred Sturm

Two Seconds to Midnight

Alan Baylock

1650 Presentation of Awards



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1725 Chiltern Concert Band (CWB)

Conductor: Duncan Stubbs

Concert Prelude

Philip Sparke

Gallimaufry

Guy Woolfenden

1755 Bangor University Concert Band (CWB)

Conductor: Max Rueff

Castell Coch

T J Powell/Jan de Rooy

Skyrider

Paul Hart

October

Eric Whitacre

1825 Corby Business Academy Concert Band (SWB)

Conductor: Clive Wears

A Nutcracker Spectacular

arr. Story

The Lion King

arr. Lavender

You'll Never Walk Alone

Rogers/Hammerstein arr. Foster

Encanto

R Smith

1855 University of Warwick Wind Orchestra (CWB)

Conductor: Tom Stoneman

Incantation and Dance

John Barnes Chance

Illyrian Dances

Guy Woolfenden

1930 Presentation of Awards



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Today's Adjudicators:-



GERARD BOOTH was, until recently, Head of the Oldham Music Service and Director of Music for Oldham. He studied at the RNCM with Stuart Roebuck, Andy Duncan and Brian Kingsley. Gerard's performing experience includes performing with the Halle, BBC Philharmonic and East of England Orchestras. He still regularly plays with the Mowbray, St Cecilia and Stockport Symphony Orchestras as well as the City of Leeds Sinfonia and freelancers with other various ensembles.

Gerard has appeared with and been a member of many of the country's top brass bands, including Grimethorpe, Brighouse and Rastrick, Leyland and Foden's bands amongst others. He was a member of the world famous 'James Shepherd Versatile Brass' group for over ten years and still enjoys performing occasionally with various chamber ensembles. He has acquired a breadth of experience both as an educator and performing musician and continues to work on a daily basis with young people.

As the Head of the Oldham Music Service for over a decade, he was responsible for overseeing around 40 different ensembles which rehearse on a weekly basis at the Music Centre and in community locations serving almost 1,000 people. In addition to this Music Service staff deliver high quality musical opportunities to over 10,000 young people in Oldham schools every week during term time. As the musical director of various young people's ensembles, Gerard has conducted at all of the country's major venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Symphony Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Royal Festival Hall and many others. His work as one of the directors of the Greater Manchester Music Hub also sees him working regularly with the North West's principle music educators including the RNCM, Chetham's School, Salford University and many others.

Gerard has also been the NW advisor to the foremost, national music education body, Music Mark, a position that he held from 2020 until 2023.

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SIMONE REBELLO – Simone graduated with Distinction from the Royal Northern College of Music to embark on a career as a solo percussionist that has seen her recording several CDs (the latest with the BBC Singers), touring and broadcasting extensively nationally and internationally and winning a collection of awards and prizes including Cosmopolitan Woman of the Year in the Performing Arts. She works frequently as a concerto soloist with wind orchestras and brass bands around the world and as a solo recitalist.

Simone is a founder member of BackBeat Percussion Quartet who have won a number of chamber music competitions in the UK, Japan and USA and who continue to tour, record and present concerts globally.

Simone appears regularly as a guest performer with a number of ensembles including The Equivox Trio, Ex Cathedra, The Young Voices Band and in a duo with outstanding jazz pianist Jason Rebello. She has worked with artists including Beverley Knight, Alexandra Burke, Tony Hadley and Mika.

In September 2010 Simone was appointed as Director of Percussion at The Royal Northern College of Music, and is also Head of School of Wind, Brass and Percussion.

In addition to performing Simone is an experienced adjudicator of percussion events, wind and brass contests and general music competitions and has judged for such prestigious events as BBC Young Musician of the Year, National Brass Band Championships for New Zealand, Australia, USA, Europe and Switzerland and for the National Concert Band Festivals in UK and Norway.

Simone is frequently invited to present concerts and talks/lectures/workshops featuring all aspects of percussion and performance.

Simone works regularly as a presenter for events including the European Brass Band Finals, The Brass in Concert Championships from The Sage and the RNCM Festival of Brass including a concert for BBC Radio 2. She has also worked as a presenter for the National Brass Band Finals (Royal Albert Hall), The Great Northern Brass Arts Festival and European and national events for Yamaha. Simone is a solo artist and endorsee for Yamaha Music Europe, Mike Balter Mallets and Sabian Cymbals.

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Today's Compere

Barrie Johnson



Barrie Johnson was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, gaining early musical experiences through Salvation Army brass bands and choirs, his playing career included being principal euphonium with bands in Newcastle & Kettering. He has also featured on tenor horn, tuba and trombone with bands in London, Kettering and Birmingham, including City of London Brass. During this time he also took part in performance tours to Norway and Canada, featured on radio and LP recordings and performed in many major concert venues throughout the UK.

Barrie has been conducting school, youth and community groups in all musical genres for many years. As a school music teacher, he has taught in primary, middle and secondary schools, heading up very successful music and expressive arts departments for over 35 years, retiring as Director of Music at Northampton School for Boys in 2015 after 14 years in post. Directing groups, including Wind Bands and Big Bands, from 3 different schools to regular top award-winning performances at the National Concert Band Festival and the National Festival of Music for Youth, programming challenging music, was key to raising standards and student aspiration. It also allowed him to direct performances in some of the country's top performance venues including Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall, London, and The Sage, Gateshead. At NSB, he formed two community bands - Cripps Hall Jazz Orchestra and East Midlands Wind Orchestra - as exemplars to further raise aspirations in the school's top groups. Regular successful performance jazz tours for his Big Band and Jazz Vocal Group, to New York, Los Angeles and Florida were also organised to further raise standards by partnering with high performance American school groups and receiving coaching from such international stars as Gordon Goodwin, Eric Marienthal, Wayne Bergeron, Jeff Jarvis, Chuck Owen and Tom Brantley.

As well as school groups he has also conducted many area and county youth bands (both brass and wind), community bands and choirs, and has conducted groups, and acted as Musical Director, on a variety of residential holiday music courses.

He has also been involved with IAJE (International Association for Jazz Education), adjudicated regularly at various music festivals and, together with Keith Allen, is responsible for keeping NCBF Repertoire lists and the Criteria Sheet up-to-date and relevant.

Since retiring from full-time teaching he has continued to teach A-level, act as a freelance Music Education consultant, adjudicate, guest conduct, lead workshops/holiday courses and compose and arrange for Wind Band and Big Band.

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	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
TOPE	☐ Excellent tone quality ☐ Sound always focussed ☐ Excellent range of tone colours	☐ Good tone quality ☐ Sound generally focussed ☐ Good range of tone colours	☐ Competent tone quality ☐ Sound not always focussed ☐ Reasonable range of tone colours	☐ Tone quality is limited ☐ Sound occasionally focussed ☐ Tone colours need further exploration
TUNING	☐ A well tuned performance ☐ Intonation is generally excellent	☐ Majority of instruments well tuned ☐ Intonation is generally good	☐ Some lack of control with tuning is evident ☐ Intonation is generally competent	☐ Tuning needs attention ☐ Intonation is generally variable
BALANCE & BLEND	☐ An excellent sense of balance is demonstrated ☐ Soloists are accompanied most sympathetically ☐ Sections blend well together throughout	☐ A good sense of balance is achieved ☐ Soloists are accompanied well ☐ Sections blend well together for the majority of the performance	☐ A competent sense of balance is achieved ☐ Soloists are accompanied well in parts ☐ Sections blend well for a portion of the performance	☐ Balance is adequate some of the time ☐ Accompaniment requires a greater degree of sensitivity ☐ Sections and individuals tend to dominate
DYNAMICS	☐ Wide range of dynamic variation is evident ☐ Dynamic contrast handled most effectively	☐ Good range of dynamic variation is evident ☐ Good control of dynamic contrast	☐ Competent range of dynamic variation is shown ☐ Competent control of dynamic contrast	☐ Dynamic range tends to be limited ☐ Some control of dynamic contrast is evident
RHYTHMIC ACCURACY & ENSEMBLE	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is excellent ☐ Pulse and tempo changes very well managed ☐ Performance shows a high degree of cohesion	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is generally very good ☐ Most pulse and tempo changes are managed effectively ☐ Band and sections mostly well co-ordinated	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is mostly good ☐ Some pulse and tempo changes are managed well ☐ Band shows reasonable co-ordination	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is inconsistent ☐ Tempo and pulse changes disturb the musical flow ☐ Co-ordination is shown only in the more straightforward passages
ARTICULATION & PHRASING	☐ Articulation is excellent throughout ☐ Excellent attention to detail ☐ Phrasing shows a high degree of understanding and presentation	☐ Articulation is generally good ☐ A wide range of detail is portrayed ☐ Phrasing is good and generally precise	☐ Articulation is competent ☐ A reasonable range of detail is portrayed ☐ Phrasing is competent	☐ A reasonable level of articulation is shown ☐ Some detail is portrayed ☐ Phrasing is in need of development
STYLE & INTERPRETATION	☐ The band responds vigilantly to the conductor's directions ☐ A mastery of style is evident throughout ☐ Your interpretation produced a highly musical performance	☐ The band responds well to the conductor's directions ☐ A good range of styles is displayed ☐ Your musical interpretation enhanced a good performance	☐ The band respond to the conductor's directions most of the time ☐ Some awareness of the style of music is shown ☐ The musicality displayed some of the time lifts the performance	☐ The band only responds to the conductor's directions for some of the time ☐ The style of the music is limited in its characterisation ☐ A basic understanding of musical interpretation is shown
CHOICE / SUITABILITY OF PROGRAMME	☐ A challenging programme that really displayed the musicianship and technical skills of the performers	☐ A balanced programme that provided a good level of challenge, developing the musicianship and technical skills of the performers most of the time	☐ The programme provided a good level of challenge in parts. It could be better balanced, with the band appearing capable of tackling music of a higher technical level and/or musical challenge overall	☐ A programme that, perhaps, needs a little more thought in balance and/or technical and musical challenge for the perceived current ability of the performers
IMPROVISATION	☐ Excellent skills shown by the soloists	☐ Soloists display a good range of skills	☐ Soloists mainly use printed solos, but there is some attempt to free themselves from the copy; or display a basic range of skills	☐ Soloists only use printed solos

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