



Worcester Concert Brass

Registered Charity Number: 1214755

Information for New Members

Rehearsals: Tuesday 7.15pm – 9.30pm

Band Room: New Drama Studio
Nunnery Wood High School
Spetchley Road
Worcester WR5 2LT

what3words: [///quest.rail.inch](https://www.what3words.com/quest.rail.inch)

Website: www.worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk

Musical Director (MD): Chris License 07990 558552
chrislicense@gmail.com

Chair: Emma Oakes 07543 922999
chair@worcestercconcertbrass.org.uk

Communication

Communication is key to the smooth running of the band. We use an online system called **Muzodo** for our forthcoming events. A profile is set up for you and members are then required to add their contact details and other relevant information along with registering their availability for an engagement and can also find information regarding the venue, uniform, arrival, and finish times. Muzodo can be accessed via your internet browser or downloaded to your mobile/tablet.

We also have a **WhatsApp** group for messages to all band members. This is used for sending apologies for absence, asking questions or to share appropriate content outside of rehearsals. Each section also has a **WhatsApp** group for messages relating to music which the librarian and MD are members of.

Speak with a committee member or anyone in the band should you have any queries. See the last page for a list of useful contacts.

About the Band

- The band was formed in March 1982 as Nunnery Wood Youth Band to allow students the opportunity to play in a traditional brass band. As the teaching of brass instruments in schools declined, musicians of all ages could join, and the band became Worcester Concert Brass.
- We play for pleasure and to improve our musical skills in a social setting.
- We play a mixture of genre – light classics, swing, songs from musicals, TV and film as well as more traditional brass band pieces.
- We play a variety of programmes through the year in a variety of settings including Worcester Guildhall, churches, fetes, and park bandstands. We are proud to regularly perform at Pershore Midsummer Brass which is a full day festival of brass music featuring brass bands from near and far.
- We raise monies for a chosen local charity of the year, especially when carolling during December.

Subscriptions

After a trial period of 4 rehearsals, both you and the Musical Director can then decide whether you are suitable to become a member of the band.

Members are then formally accepted to the band at a meeting of the Committee following which you will then be required to pay your subscription to the band as detailed below.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and aim to make the band accessible by keeping subscriptions as low as possible. Nonetheless we must cover various costs such as hall hire, a nominal payment for our Musical Director, Performing Rights fees, Insurances, Band uniform, purchase of new music, and instrument repairs to name a few. Subs are moderated by the fees we receive for public performances.

Overall, we aim to strike a good balance between subs from members and the number of paid public performances to cover our costs. Moreover, we aim to provide members excellent value for money.

If you have any issues or queries, please speak to the Treasurer, David Peters, who can discuss them in the strictest of confidence.

Membership Fees

Full **£15 per month**

Student/Unwaged **£12 per month**

The band prefers payment by monthly standing order to the following account:

Account Name: Worcester Concert Brass

Sort Code: 20 98 61

Account Number: 10662240

Benefits of Membership

There are many benefits to belonging to a social group with a shared interest. Being a member of Worcester Concert Brass gives you access to:

- Loan of a professional quality instrument and equipment if required (subject to availability)
- Musical tuition at rehearsals
- Music
- Uniform (see below)
- Opportunity to perform at events in public.

We may be an amateur band playing for pleasure, but we take pride in our performances, appearance and conduct at rehearsals and concerts both on and off stage

Loan of Instruments

Where an instrument is loaned to a band member it is the responsibility of that member to ensure that it is stored safely and transported between rehearsals and events in the case in which it is provided.

Should there at any time be any issues or requirement for repairs these must be brought to the attention of the Treasurer before incurring any cost to the band. All costs must be approved by the Treasurer and Band Committee before arrangements can be made for any work to be carried out.

Music Library

Music is distributed via a secure online cloud storage file, from which members can choose to view via iPad or Tablet, or print at home. We recognise that not all band members have the equipment to print music, so by contacting John Winer - librarian.wcb@gmail.com printed copies can be made available to you.

Copyright regulations require the band to distribute only one copy of music either electronically or as paper copies which are to be played in the band that holds the paper hard copy of that piece (or electronic serial number) as well as for home practise. We are not allowed to play these pieces with other bands or to send the Hi drive storage link to anyone else, especially those in other bands.

All new band members will be sent the secure link to the online portal to access their part along with instructions on where to find their music. To maintain the ongoing security of the portal the hyperlink will be changed and distributed once a year or at any other time is deemed necessary.

Uniform Code

Each member is required to wear:

- Formal plain black tailored trousers *or* plain black skirt of reasonable length. No denim jeans/ jeggings or jersey type leggings are to be worn unless advised otherwise.
- Plain white shirt/blouse in a traditional style with collar and top button.
- Black bowtie.
- Plain black socks and black, clean/ polished footwear (no trainers, casual sandals or flipflops)
- In very hot weather, a suitable hat (e.g. Panama or smart cap in black or burgundy) is acceptable.

WCB provides band-branded items on loan to band members.

- Black Waistcoat (to be worn with white shirt and black bowtie)
- Burgundy polo shirt (worn when advised instead of white shirt and bowtie)
- Black Regatta soft shell jacket – for inclement weather

You are responsible for the upkeep of band items and to return them when leaving the band.

The band reserves the right to charge for the replacement of lost or irreparably damaged items.

You will be notified through Muzodo and/ or announcements at rehearsal what uniform is required to be worn as each event may vary depending on the type of event and the weather.

As a member of Worcester Concert Brass, you are the face of the band, and the way you present yourself reflects on our longstanding reputation. Please take pride in wearing your uniform and respect your fellow band members and Musical Director by presenting yourself, by appearance and conduct, in a smart and considerate way as a representative of the band.

Code of Conduct

- Be respectful and attentive to the Musical Director (MD) during rehearsal and performance.
- Please avoid chatting in between pieces (except during breaks). It is disruptive to other players and may mean missing guidance from the Music Director in rehearsals. At events, it is also considerate to stay quiet for the sake of our audience. You may miss an important instruction or request.
- Mobile phones etiquette – to avoid distractions and disruption please keep mobile phones on silent or turned off during rehearsals and events. If there is an exceptional circumstance to have the sound on, please advise the Musical Director beforehand. If you need to take a call during rehearsal, please leave the room discreetly to take it.
- Our band is made up of musicians with many different levels of experience. Everyone is learning, developing and contributing at rehearsals. Please be patient and supportive – gestures such as eye-rolling, tutting, heavy sighs can come across as unkind. Actions by individual members which are disrespectful and hurtful to others are unacceptable.

- The band room is a safe space for rehearsal in a friendly, respectful and encouraging atmosphere. Members should feel safe to contribute and learn in a positive and supportive atmosphere.
- Maintain and wear your uniform with pride; keep your music folder up to date; maintain your instrument (especially if you have use of a band instrument)
- Always behave in a professional and appropriate manner when representing the band, whether in uniform or not.

Note: Continued membership of the band is subject to adherence to the above Code of Conduct.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q I am unable to attend band practice - who do I contact?

Please post a message to the WCB WhatsApp group giving as much notice as possible. Alternatively, contact Chris License (MD) or Helen Winer (Booking Secretary).

Q I am unable to play at a public performance – what do I do?

Update Muzodo to reflect this. If it is within 4 weeks, then ensure Chris License is personally aware as he will have to find cover (a 'dep' from another band) to cover you.

Always leave your music pad with John Winer (Librarian) or someone in your section who will be playing at rehearsal. Otherwise, you are responsible for making other arrangements.

Q I feel unwell – should I come to rehearsal / performance?

Players may be people who are immunocompromised or otherwise vulnerable to infection or they may have family, friends or work colleagues who are extremely vulnerable to any infection. If you feel unwell, please send your apologies. If it is a public performance, see above for protocol.

Useful Contacts

Committee Members (2025-26)

Worcester Concert Brass band is run by a committee of volunteers, nominated by members at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the spring. A copy of our constitution is available on request.

If you have any queries or concerns about anything, please speak to the Band Representative, TBC, or any of the contacts below.

Alternatively, you can also speak to our Musical Director, Chris License.

Chair:	Emma Oakes	07543 922999 chair@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk
Secretary:	Tim Allen	07729 068757 secretary@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk
Treasurer:	David Peters	07557 911030 treasurer@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk
Bookings Secretary:	Helen Winer	07891 628904 bookings@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk
Publicity Officer:	Lucy Grace	info@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk
Personnel Officer:	Position currently vacant	
Band Representative:	Molly Shaw	

Non-Executive Officer Roles

Librarian:	John Winer	07802 754013 librarian.wcb@gmail.com
Quartermaster:	David Peters	07557 911030 treasurer@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer Roles

Emma Oakes (Chair)	07543 922999
Alex Dentith	07907 554914
Kevin Clough	07887 381231