



# YOUTH FEST

National Youth Brass Band Festival

Pre-Entry Information Pack

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youthfest.uk/2024

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Brass Bands  
England



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# Introduction

## Welcome to the first ever Brass Bands England Youth Fest!

We're delighted that you are interested in taking part in the event - and this pack should include everything you need to know. So, what's Youth Fest all about?

## Youth Fest Principles

### Youth Fest will...

- Be a high-quality National event, which promotes a standard of access and inclusivity in banding.
- Be exciting, inspiring and engaging to young people.
- Maintain a positive and inclusive environment, rejecting discrimination in any form.
- Promote brass banding to children and young people as widely as possible.
- Encourage personal progression (both musically and generally) within a youth banding and school environment.
- Be a celebration of success and participation in music.

## Youth Fest Aims

### Youth Fest will...

- Encourage and reward participation.
- Be held in an inspiring venue with accessible, modern facilities.
- Engage with its venue's local population, both within and outside of the brass band community.
- Be run to the highest possible professional standards.
- Provide a sense of achievement as the main reward for all participants.
- Give young people a voice and an opportunity to feedback and shape the event.

# Guidelines

Youth Fest is a non-competitive event, offering an opportunity to take part and contribute a great performance without the pressure of competition. Bands of all standards are welcome to play.

All participants should have a positive experience to encourage them to continue to progress on their instrument. **Bands can perform for a maximum of ten minutes but may be able to play for 15 minutes if requested in advance.**

Those who are over 18 years of age but who are still studying within the formal school education system may be permitted to take part in the event. Where this is the case please apply in writing for confirmation to [youthfest@bbe.org.uk](mailto:youthfest@bbe.org.uk).

- Bands are required to play an own-choice programme not exceeding their playing time of ten minutes to 15 minutes depending on what has been agreed upon entry.
- Up to four adult (playing or non-playing) helpers will be allowed, in non-principal positions, to assist the young musicians during their performance. If you feel, due to the individual needs of students or number of players that you will require additional adults please let the BBE team know in advance.
- There will be no awards given, as this is a non-contesting event there are no winners. It is intended that each child will receive a token to show our appreciation in taking part in the event (such as a certificate).
- Non-standard 'brass band instruments' (i.e. trumpets, French horns and plastic instruments) will be allowed, but all instruments must be from the brass or percussion families. Singing and backing tracks are permitted as well as use of the projector screen to add audio-visual elements to your performance.
- A drum kit will be provided. Any additional percussion instruments must be brought by you as the performer.
- Bands can enter from anywhere in the UK. Although this year's event will be taking place in Barnsley it is our intention to change the location of the Youth Fest regularly in order to ensure that the distance that participants and spectators need to travel will not constantly benefit one area over another.
- The upper limit of individuals permitted in any bands will be 55 players.

# Entry

Thanks to the support of Arts Council England and other funders we are able to offer this event **free of charge**. Spaces are limited, so to ensure commitment there will be **a cancellation fee of £40 should you cancel your place after Friday 3 May**.

Due to limitations on the number of bands taking part in the event it may not be possible for your application to be accepted but be assured that applications will be dealt with on a 'first come first served' basis.

The event will run from roughly 10am - 5pm. On your entry form you will be able to indicate whether you would prefer a morning or afternoon slot to perform. This will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to **£350 in travel bursary** funding is available to support bands to travel to the event. This bursary will be available for every group that enters the festival, and will be payable after the event upon receipt of confirmation of travel fees incurred.

## Event Timeline



# Facilities

Once your performance time has been confirmed, you will be given a check-in time for you and all of your players to arrive at the venue. After you check in you will be taken to a holding space where you will have the opportunity to have a short rehearsal before you go on stage. All belongings must be collected and taken from this space after you have played. Items cannot be stored here before you check in or after your performance.

Due to child safeguarding, this cannot be used as a changing area. Everyone involved should arrive in the clothing they will be performing in. Only your designated chaperones will be allowed access to the holding area - parents dropping off or collecting their children from the venue must not enter this space, but should pre-arrange to meet a chaperone who will then escort the young person to where they need to be. Separate toilet facilities for performers and audience members will be provided and clearly signposted.

**Coach parking** is limited on site, and is designated for coach drop-off and pick-up only - coaches cannot park on site throughout the day. A local coach park address will be provided for all bands travelling via coach.

There are multiple **car parks** nearby, the closest ones are on **County Way Upper** and **County Way Lower**, which are a 4 minute walk away from the venue.

Barnsley Civic is easily accessible via **public transport**, either by train, or public bus to Barnsley Interchange. The venue is fully accessible with wheelchair spaces available. Please let us know any access requirements via [youthfest@bbe.org.uk](mailto:youthfest@bbe.org.uk).

There are a variety of nearby restaurants and cafes including:

- The Lemon Tree
- Falco Lounge
- Market Kitchen
- Nandos
- Mother Hubbards Fish and Chips
- Costa Coffee
- The Victorian Tea Rooms

# Tickets

**Wristbands** for players, the conductor and up to four helpers will be given to the official of each band upon arrival. These wristbands will provide access to the backstage area prior to and during the performance, and into the auditorium for the duration of the day.

**Audience Tickets** will be available from the Brass Bands England website from **1 June 2024**. You can purchase a ticket to access the hall for the full day to see all performances, or tickets for either the morning or afternoon performances with a half day ticket. It will be made clear in advance which band will be performing in which half.

## Full Day

Adults: £8

Under 18's: Free

## Half Day

Adults: £5

Under 18's: Free



# Safeguarding Requirements

In order to comply with current legislation regarding child performance licensing, Brass Bands England holds a Body of Persons Approved (BOPA) from the Secretary of State for Education. **In order to comply with this BOPA, and as a condition of entry, you must complete the following.**

1. Each participant group must ensure that the appropriate number of supervising adults are employed to care for their children. The organisation will ensure that children are supervised at all times. The supervising adults must have a DBS check carried out or update service status checked in the last three years and that the DBS has been seen by the organisation. If the supervising adult has information on their DBS then the organisation must undertake the risk assessment before allowing them to take care of children, this might include consultation with Brass Bands England. The maximum number of children a supervising adult can be responsible for is 12 but we recommend working on the basis of 1:12 plus one additional adult in case of emergencies.
2. The organisation will ensure they sign in and out at the event check-in desk.
3. The organisation will ensure that the band has permission, photographic consent, emergency medical information and contact details available for all child performers at the place of performance. An example BOPA safeguarding consent form can be downloaded here. Please feel free to use this form within your band; alternatively, a form of your own design is equally acceptable, provided it contains the appropriate information.
4. No child must receive payment for their part in the performance (except for defraying expenses).
5. The organisation must ensure that suitable arrangements are made to get the child home or to any other destination after the last performance or rehearsal, on the conclusion of any activity on any day.

Any questions about the event?

Just email the BBE team on [youthfest@bbe.org.uk](mailto:youthfest@bbe.org.uk)







Brass Bands England. Unit 12 Maple Estate, Stocks Lane, Barnsley S75 2BL. Registered Charity No. 114833.



**#YouthFest24**

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