



Encore Youth Music (EYM) Member Handbook 2026 – 2027

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For all enquiries relating to **Youth Music** and **Livewire**, please contact
EYM Leader – Hannah Bengough

 hbengough@encore-enterprises.com

EYM Mobile: 07583 669393

You can  Call /  Text /  WhatsApp

Contact the EYM mobile for anything relating to EYM rehearsals e.g. to let us know if unable to attend, for all enquires or updates regarding any additional rehearsals/concerts/Livewire sessions or gigs, or if an emergency.

Please also check www.encore-enterprises.com for the latest news and updates.

Handbooks are available to download from the website; please follow this link to register for 2026/2027: encore-enterprises.com/encoreyouthmusic
Hard copies of the Handbook are available on request.

For all other Encore enquiries, please contact the Encore office:

info@encore-enterprises.com

Encore Office: 07483 653642

**Encore Enterprises CIO
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Rotherwas
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What3Words ///tour.mainframe.gossiping

Office Hours:

Mon-Wed 9am-4pm

Thu and Fri by appointment

Follow our social media for updates – click the icons for links



Welcome to Encore Youth Music (EYM)

Thank you for looking to join as a member of Encore Youth Music. This is a great avenue to grow and develop your skills as a young musician and to enjoy the many creative benefits, learning opportunities and the sociable experience of working as a team within your musical community.

As part of Encore's provision of creative outlets to enrich young people's lives and to complement their school learning, the following Herefordshire County group music making activities are on offer for the 2026/2027 academic year:

- Junior and Intermediate String ensembles
- Junior and Intermediate Concert Bands
- Herefordshire Youth Concert Band
- Herefordshire Youth Orchestra
- Livewire Popular Music projects

A programme of regular rehearsals are scheduled with a focus on music specifically catered for the young people involved, along with a number of public performances throughout the year to showcase the skills learnt and to enjoy sharing this with wider audiences.

There are also extra opportunities for EYM members to take part in over the year, including links with other arts organisations such as Severn Arts in Worcestershire, collaborating on concert tours abroad, event trips, workshops and more.

A high level of commitment to EYM is expected from all our ensemble members. It is important practice for young people to learn this and to take responsibility for themselves working as part of an ensemble. We know many families lead busy lives, but your help in supporting this ethos is very important and a great mindset to instil in young people to help them grow and develop into their futures, whether in music or in other areas.

Joining costs are detailed below and there is no additional charge to join multiple ensembles, including Livewire. Encore's aim is for young people to be able to have access to music and performance opportunities within the County, so please enquire with us if you have any questions about joining. If you are unable to meet the full costs of our services, there may be additional funding support available, and payment plan options are on offer too, please check further details on page 5.

We hope you enjoy taking part in this year's EYM activities. We look forward to welcoming you.

Encore Youth Music

EYM Information

Saturday morning EYM group rehearsals start in September and run till approx. the end of the Spring term to leave members time for the summer exam season. There are typically 15 Saturdays a year for rehearsal provision and then Autumn and Spring concert performances.

To join, you need to complete the online application form available on the website encore-enterprises.com/encoreyouthmusic. If it is your first time, you can come to the first two rehearsals for free to see if it is for you. You will then need to make payment for the year. Please see page 5 for more details on fees.

Once joined, you will need to attend each Saturday morning rehearsal for the group you are in and take part in the concerts scheduled.

For rehearsals:

- Please bring a named music stand, pencil and rubber, and any money you may wish to bring for the break time tuck shop.
- Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the rehearsal to help set up the chairs, tune up, get music out, and be ready to start playing on time for everyone. String players need to allow more time to tune their instruments.
- Saturday Music Centre morning rehearsals start at 9.30am and end at 11.50am – parents/guardians need to be ready to pick up children promptly at the end. Young people will be ready for collection shortly after when everything has been cleared away – all members need to help at the end before leaving.
- Saturday Music Centre has a tuck shop during the break (10.30 to 10.50am), this currently takes only cash payments so members can bring cash/change if they are wanting to purchase anything from the tuck shop. Members can take their own snacks/drinks, this includes when at other venues.
- Health and Safety rules apply at all venues. Please do not run, particularly on the stairs, and keep to the areas of the rehearsal venues that are being used by Encore Youth Music. Please be aware that members of the public use Hereford Sixth Form College and staff may also be on site.
- Please note that only the members of EYM and Encore staff/tutors are permitted on site during rehearsals. Please wait outside the building for drop off and collection of members. If you need to speak to the team, please wait outside until someone is available, a member of staff is present throughout the rehearsal times. If toilets are required whilst you wait to collect your child/children, please speak to the Encore member of staff present who can direct you to the correct ones for use and confirm it is okay to do so.

First Saturday Rehearsal

For the first Saturday morning rehearsal of the season on **Saturday 12 September**, please arrive at **9.15am** and assemble in the **PAC (performing arts centre)** with your band or ensemble.

Attendance/Absence

Members are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. However, we do understand that there are times when missing a rehearsal is unavoidable. Please let your conductor know if you are going to miss a rehearsal and email Hannah - EYM Leader: hbengough@encore-enterprises.com or Whatsapp/Text the EYM mobile **07583 669393** - **Please note messages may not be responded to right away**

Membership Fees

The annual cost of EYM membership is part subsidised by Encore through DfE/ACE funding. From September 2026 fees are charged at:

- £160.00 individual annual rate for EYM/Livewire Saturdays
- Family subscription £290.00 (2 or more children) annual rate
- If your child/children start in January, the subscription is £80 or £145 (family rate)
- Payment plans are available in 8 instalments. For single child membership 8 payments of £20.00 and for family rate membership 8 payments of £36.25. Payment plans aren't available for anyone joining in January
- Attendance at Livewire is included in the EYM subscription
- Livewire Drop-in £3.00 per session
- Livewire Central £160.00
- Membership is free for low-income families where the pupil is in receipt of Free School Meals.

Give it a try for free!

The first two rehearsals offer an opportunity for you to decide if you enjoy playing with that ensemble before any commitment is made. Please leave any payment until you have been to two rehearsals to ensure that you want to continue with EYM/Livewire.

If you or your child are not sure about how this works or want to come take a look at what normally happens first of all, please email hbengough@encore-enterprises.com and we can arrange for you to come and visit us to see if you want to take part. You can join at various times of the year.

Instruments

Instruments are available for hire from Encore, please contact:
Alex alex@encore-enterprises.com for more information.

Please note that Encore do not accept responsibility for accidents or loss of instruments at rehearsals or concerts.

Cellists, Double Bass and Bassoon players **MUST** have reliable spike protection.

Our Tutors

Safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people taking part in Encore's Youth Music provision is a priority. All Encore staff, EYM tutors, freelance practitioners and those involved with working with young people for the organisation:

- Have current Enhanced DBS clearance
- Receive annual safeguarding training
- Receive guidance on best practice to help safeguard young people and themselves

EYM SATURDAY MUSIC CENTRE

Venue: Hereford Sixth Form College, Olympus Way, off Folly Lane HR1 1LU
(Various rooms are used and you will be shown which room your group is in)

Junior Strings

9.30am – 11.50am

Tutors: Shirley Aston and Carol Lewis-Merritt

A Junior String Ensemble for Violins, Violas and Cellos

Standard required to join: Be able to read music and play basic finger pattern, can be starting out or up to Grade 2.

Intermediate Strings

9.30am – 11.50am

Tutors: Barbara Kinnaird and Hazel Davis

An Intermediate String Ensemble for Violins, Violas and Cellos

Standard required to join: Grade 3 - Grade 5

Junior Concert Band

9.30am – 11.50am

Tutors: Hannah West and Liessa Price

A Junior Wind Ensemble for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Standard required to join: Working towards Grade 1 - Grade 2

Intermediate Concert Band

9.30am – 11.50am

Tutors: Becky Griffiths and John Griffiths

An Intermediate Wind Ensemble for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Standard required to join: Grade 3 - 4

Herefordshire Youth Concert Band

9.30am – 11.50am

Tutors: Colin Hales and Beth Knight

A Senior Wind Ensemble for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Standard required to join: Grade 5+

Woodwind and Brass players (not saxophones) may be able to join the Youth Orchestra, rehearsing on Tuesday evenings.

Email hbengough@encore-enterprises.com for more details.

HEREFORDSHIRE YOUTH ORCHESTRA TUESDAYS

Venue: Hereford Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2PJ

Please note there will also be 2 Sunday rehearsals for HYO 2-5pm

Herefordshire Youth Orchestra

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Tutor: Barbara Kinnaird

A Senior Orchestra for Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Standard required to join: Grade 5+

Auditions for woodwind and brass players may be required.



Livewire Saturdays

12.00pm – 4.15pm

Venue: Hereford College of Arts, Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LT

Led by Chris Butts

An all-inclusive Popular Music programme for all young people in Herefordshire aged 11-21, whether they are accomplished musicians or just starting out.

There are also two gig performances per year included.

Two sessions are available on Saturdays, VOLTS and AMPED:

- **VOLTS 12.00pm – 2.00pm** for 11-14 yrs (Yrs 7 – 9)
- **AMPED 2.15pm – 4.15pm** for 15-21 yrs (Yrs 10 – 13+)

Livewire Drop-in sessions

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Venue: Hereford Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2PJ

Led by Chris Butts

The Drop-in sessions will be run in blocks for 2026-27 during term-time. Drop-in sessions are available for anybody interested in Popular Music aged 11-21. Whether you've never picked up an instrument before or you're a Grade 8 classically trained musician, or anywhere in between, we invite you to flex your musical muscles.

Gig opportunities are also programmed through the year.

Fee per session £3.00

Livewire Central

Venue: Varies

Led by Chris Butts

Livewire Central is a week-long project run twice a year, during February half-term and over the summer break typically in August. It is open to popular music instrumentalists, vocalists and includes songwriting as a special element of the project, with tutors giving 1:1 time with all songwriters.

All projects are open to anyone aged 11 – 21yrs. Places are limited so do book early.

Monday – Thursday for playing/songwriting, Friday for the Gig.

Visit the Livewire Central homepage for more details [Livewire Central | Encore Enterprises](#)

There is no additional charge for joining EYM Saturday ensembles or Livewire Saturdays.

Dates For Your Diaries

EYM and Livewire Rehearsals

Rehearsal Dates	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	April 2027	May 2027	June 2027	July 2027
EYM - All Junior & Intermediate Ensembles, & Herefordshire Youth Concert Band SATURDAYS (mornings) 9.30-11.50am	12 19	3 10	7 14 21**	5 - for HYCB only	16 30	6 27	6 20	17 24	None	None	None
Livewire SATURDAYS (afternoons) VOLTS 12-2pm AMPED 2.15-4.15pm	12 19 26	10 17	7 14	None	16 23	6 27	13 20	17 24	None	None	None
Livewire MONDAYS Drop-in Sessions 5-7pm	14 21 28	5 12 19	9 16 23 30	None	11 18 25	1 8	1 8 15	12 19 26	None	28	5 12
Herefordshire Youth Orchestra TUESDAYS 5-7pm	8 15 22 29	4* 6 13 20	3 10 17 24	None	12 19 26 31*	2 9 23	2 9 16 23	None	None	None	None

*Sunday Rehearsal 2pm-5pm

** Plus Concert Day

EYM Concerts and Events Dates

Concert/Event	Date & Time	Ensemble(s) performing	Venue
Autumn Youth Music Concert	Sat 21 Nov 2 - 4pm	Junior & Intermediate Strings, Junior & Intermediate Concert Bands	Kindle Centre Asda Belmont Road HR2 7JE
Autumn Youth Music Concert	Sat 28 Nov 7pm	Herefordshire Youth Orchestra (HYO) & Herefordshire Youth Concert Band (HYCB)	Holy Trinity Church Whitecross Road HR4 0DH
ABF Concert	Wed 9 Dec 7pm	Herefordshire Youth Concert Band (HYCB)	Hereford Cathedral
Spring Youth Music Concert	Wed 24 Mar 7pm	Herefordshire Youth Orchestra (HYO)	Holy Trinity Church Whitecross Road HR4 0DH
Spring Youth Music Concert	Wed 28 April 7pm	Junior & Intermediate Strings, Junior & Intermediate Concert Band, Herefordshire Youth Concert Band (HYCB)	The Courtyard Edgar Street HR4 9JR

Livewire Gigs and Events Dates

Gig/Event	Date & Time	Group(s) performing	Venue
Livewire Drop-in Gig	DATE TBC In Oct 7-9pm	Livewire Drop-in	Venue TBC
Livewire Saturdays Gig	Sat 21 Nov 7-9.45pm	Livewire Saturdays	The Welsh Club 1 Hinton Road HR2 6BL
Livewire Drop-in Gig	DATE TBC In Feb	Livewire Drop-in	Venue TBC
Livewire Saturdays Gig	DATE TBC Sat 1 or Sun 2 May	Livewire Saturdays	The Welsh Club 1 Hinton Road HR2 6BL