



Encore Youth Music Member Handbook 2025 - 2026

For all enquiries relating to Youth Music and Livewire, please contact:

info@encore-enterprises.com

Office: 01432 853219

EYM mobile 07583 669393

**For emergencies, Saturday mornings, all other rehearsals, concerts and all
Livewire sessions and gigs**

Call/Text/Whatsapp 07583 669393

Please check the website regularly for the latest news and updates.

www.encore-enterprises.com

Handbooks and registration forms are all accessible from the website.
Hard copies of the Handbook and newsletters are available on request.

For all other Encore enquiries, please contact:

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01432 853219

Welcome to Encore Youth Music

We ask and expect a high level of commitment to our ensembles. We plan our music and our performances specifically for the young people in them. Also, it is important that young people learn about commitment and being part of a team; just like a sports team. We know many families lead busy lives, but we do ask you to help with this. All rehearsal and concert dates are in this handbook for you. We also help by sending out information to schools in June of each year to help them plan their musical events around the county calendar and to avoid clashes etc.

Encore Youth Music is heavily subsidised by Encore through some of our Music Hub funding from the DfE. Don't forget the membership fee is for EYM (not one ensemble), so if you are in more than one ensemble it doesn't cost any more.

If you have any queries, please do contact us at the Encore office or ask on a Saturday morning.

We hope that you enjoy this year's experiences at EYM!

The Encore Youth Music team

General Information

Saturday morning rehearsals

- ♪ Please bring a named music stand, pencil and rubber, and money for break time tuck shop.
- ♪ Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the scheduled start time of the rehearsal to help set up the chairs and be ready to start playing on time! String players in particular need to allow time to tune their instruments.
- ♪ Saturday Music Centre morning rehearsals start at 9.30am and end at 11.50am - please be ready to pick up your child promptly - and young people will be ready for collection shortly after when everything has been cleared away – we do expect everyone to help!
- ♪ Saturday Music Centre has a tuck shop during the break (10.30 to 10.50am) so members may want to bring some change. For all other venues, please can members take their own snacks, thank you.
- ♪ Can we remind everybody that usual Health and Safety rules apply. 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.

First Saturday Music Centre

- ♪ For the first Saturday morning rehearsal of the season only on **Saturday 13th September**, please arrive at 9.15am and assemble in the PAC with your band or ensemble; it will be signposted.

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, or:
 - **Text or WhatsApp the EYM phone: 07583 669393**

Instruments

- ♪ Please note that Encore cannot accept responsibility for accidents or loss of instruments at rehearsals or concerts.
- ♪ Cellists, Double Bass and Bassoon players **MUST** have reliable spike protection.

EYM Membership/Subscription

- ♪ The annual cost of EYM membership is heavily subsidised by Encore through our DfE funding and from September 2025 is charged at:
 - £150 per child. Family subscription is £270 (2 or more children). If your child/children start in January, the subscription is £75 / £135
 - Attendance at Livewire is included in the subscription. Please see the handbook pg 9 for details or email info@encore-enterprises.com for more information
- ♪ Membership is free for low-income families where the school receives Pupil Premium.
- ♪ Payment plans are available. Email info@encore-enterprises.com for more information.

Give it a try for free!

- ♪ The first couple of rehearsals will be an opportunity for your child to decide if they enjoy playing with the group before any commitment is necessary; please do not pay the subscription until they have been to 2 rehearsals to be sure that they want to continue with EYM or Livewire Saturdays.
- ♪ If you or your child are not sure whether this is something that you wish to be involved in, then drop us an email and we will arrange for you to come and visit us to see! You can join at various times of the year.

Saturday Music Centre

Venue: Hereford Sixth Form College, Olympus Way, off Folly Lane HR1 1LU

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 - 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 (Yr 7 & above)

Junior Concert Band 9.30am – 11.50am

♪ Tutors: Hannah West and Liessa Price. Percussion - Ian Russell

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. Percussion - Ian Russell

An Intermediate Wind Ensemble for Woodwind, Brass and Percussion

Standard required to join: Grade 3 - 4

There is no extra charge for joining Herefordshire Youth Choir or Livewire Saturdays.

Herefordshire Youth Concert Band

9.30am – 11.50am

Venue: Hereford Sixth Form College, Olympus Way, off Folly Lane HR1 1LU

♪ Tutors: Colin Hales (conductor) and Ian Russell (percussion)

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 info@encore-enterprises.com for more details.

There is no extra charge for joining Herefordshire Youth Choir, Herefordshire Youth Orchestra or Livewire Saturdays.

Herefordshire Youth Orchestra

Tuesdays 5.00pm – 7.00pm

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

♪ 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.

Herefordshire Youth Choir

9.30am – 11.30am

Led by Jo Lowry

- ♪ Open to any 9 - 18 year olds who love to sing, no experience required.
- ♪ Members of Herefordshire Youth Choir can also join any of our other ensembles free of charge if they play an appropriate instrument to the required standard.

You can check all dates and information for all groups and ensembles at the Encore website www.encore-enterprises.com



Saturdays 12.00pm – 4.15pm

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

Led by Chris Butts

- ♪ Livewire is our 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 two gigs per year.
- ♪ There are two sessions, **VOLTS and AMPED**:
 - VOLTS is 12.00pm – 2.00pm for 11-14 yrs (Yrs 7 – 9)
 - AMPED is 2.15pm – 4.15pm for 15-21 yrs (Yrs 10 – 13+)



The Drop in sessions

Mondays, term time only, 5.00pm – 7.00pm

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

Led by Chris Butts

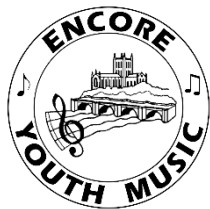
- ♪ The Drop in sessions are a weekly, term-time, drop-in for anybody interested in Popular Music. Whether you've never picked up an instrument before or you're a Grade 8, classically trained violinist or anywhere in between, we invite you to flex your musical muscles.
- ♪ Gig opportunities are at the end of each term.

There is a voluntary donation of £2 per session attended.

Livewire Central and Summer Projects

Led by Chris Butts

- ♪ Central Projects are a week-long project during October and February half term and also during the summer break. Song writing is a special element of the project, with tutors giving 1:1 time with all song writers. All projects are open to anyone aged 11 – 21yrs. Places are limited.
- ♪ Monday – Thursday – Playing and songwriting. Friday – Gig!
- ♪ Visit the Livewire Central homepage [Livewire Central | Encore Enterprises](#)



Dates For Your Diaries

Rehearsals

Rehearsal Dates	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Junior & Intermediate Ensembles, Herefordshire Youth Concert Band (Saturday morning) 9.30-11.50am	13 20	4 11	8 22 29		17 24 31	7	7 21	18 25			
Herefordshire Youth Choir (Saturday morning) 9.30-11.30am	27	18	15	13	31	28	14				
Livewire Saturdays (afternoon) VOLTS 12-2pm AMPED 2.15-4.15pm	13 20	4 11 18	8 15		17 24	7 28	14 21	18 25			
Livewire Drop in Sessions (Mondays) 5-7pm	8 15 22 29	6 13 20	3 10 17 24	1 8 15	12 19 26	2 9 23	2 9 16 23	20 27	11 18	1 8 15 22 29	6 13
Herefordshire Youth Orchestra (Tuesdays) 5-7pm	9 16 23 30	5* 7 14	4 11 18 25	2	13 20 27	1* 3 10 24	3 10 17 24	14 21			

*Sunday Rehearsal



EYM Dates For Your Diaries

Concerts and Events

Concert/Event	Date & Time	Ensemble(s) performing	Venue
Autumn Youth Music Concert	Sat 29 th Nov 2pm – 4pm	Junior and Intermediate Groups	Kindle Centre, Asda Stores, Belmont Road, Hereford HR2 7JE
Autumn Youth Music Concert	Sat 6 th Dec 7.30pm	Herefordshire Youth Orchestra & Herefordshire Youth Concert Band	Holy Trinity Church, Whitecross Rd HR4 0DH
Army Benevolent Fund Carol Concert	Wed 17 th Dec 7pm	Herefordshire Youth Concert Band & Herefordshire Youth Choir	Hereford Cathedral
Spring Youth Concert Strings and HYO	Tues 28 th April 7pm	Junior Strings, Intermediate Strings, Herefordshire Youth Orchestra	The Courtyard, Hereford
Spring Youth Concert Bands	Wednesday 29 th April 7pm	Junior Concert Band, Intermediate Concert Band, Herefordshire Youth Concert Band	The Courtyard, Hereford



Dates For Your Diaries

Gigs and Events

Gig/Event	Date & Time	Group(s) performing	Venue
Livewire Saturdays Gig	Provisional Sat 22 nd Nov 5 – 6pm 7 – 8pm	Livewire Saturdays	Hereford College of Arts, Folly Lane
Livewire Drop in Gig	End of Spring Term TBC	Livewire Drop in	TBC
Livewire Saturdays Gig	Saturday 2 nd or Sunday 3 rd May	Livewire Saturdays	TBC
Livewire Drop in Gig	Provisional Sunday 19 th July	Livewire Drop in	The Barrels, St Owen Street, Hereford

Livewire Central is a half term project, open to anyone aged 11-21 yrs. Please visit the Encore website or follow our social media for more info: www.encore-enterprises.com

