



MIDDLETON YOUTH BAND & MIDDLETON TRAINING BAND

Information Pack

MIDDLETON BAND IS A REGISTERED CHARITY, NUMBER 1175298



MAYO
CIVILS



EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

Rotary



Middleton



MIDDLETON YOUTH BAND

Ethos

We believe that absolutely everybody should have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and take part in group music making. As such, the band aims to offer any young person aged 7 -18 the opportunity to learn to read music and play a brass instrument, to grow in confidence and develop their skills within a fun and safe brass band setting.

Unlike most local youth organisations, it is our policy to offer all our services: instrument loan, musical direction and tuition for free. All we ask in return is that members are fully committed to improving their playing and regularly attend rehearsals and engagements.

We have recently introduced a voluntary contribution scheme in response to proposals from members' parents, to make regular nominal voluntary donations towards the running costs of the bands. Donations are entirely voluntary and are eligible for gift aid. If you would like to make a regular voluntary donation please visit our web page to do this via pay pal or speak to Louise who can supply the details to set up a standing order. <http://www.middletonband.com/support-us/>

In addition to providing instruments and musical direction to our young musicians, we provide a fantastic opportunity to make new friends and develop life long skills.

We also provide our members with the opportunity to experience and take part in a wide range of engagements with the training band, the youth band, as part of the senior band and in partnership with other local and world class, musical groups.

Joining the Band

We welcome any young person who has an interest in learning to play a brass instrument. Established players of any standard are welcome to join us at any rehearsal. For complete beginners, intake sessions are generally staggered throughout the year. New beginners will generally start with other absolute beginners and will initially be taught in a group together to learn the first basics of how to hold their instruments, how to produce notes and how to read the first elements of music. New beginners will begin to join in with the training band usually quite quickly, after just a few lessons where they will begin to put into practice the new skills they have begun to learn.

We require new members to sign a short contract and for their parent or guardian to complete a registration form with emergency contact details and photo/ video consent form etc.

Free Instrumental loan

Buying a brass instrument can be an expensive affair and can become a barrier to learning but not at Middleton band! Whilst some of our young musicians do have their own instruments or are using an instrument from school or a local music service, many of our youngsters take advantage of our free instrument loans.

We have a range of instruments available to loan at no cost to members. The instrument is absolutely free to use whilst the member plays for the Middleton Band organisation. No catches! The only loan conditions are that the instrument is looked after carefully and the band member and their family make a solid commitment to the member attending rehearsals and engagements regularly.

NB: We will require proof of address before we can loan an instrument out.



MIDDLETON YOUTH BAND

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals take place every Monday evening from 5.45pm – 6.45pm for training band and 6.45 – 7.45pm for youth band, with the exception of most bank holidays and between Christmas and New Year. Monday rehearsals are led by our Musical Director Louise, sometimes with some adult helpers sat within the band to support the young musicians. Our team of tutors will take groups and individual members out for short lessons during this time. Parents are welcome to stay and listen to rehearsals and lessons. Monthly Saturday workshops usually occur on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00am – 11.00pm for training band and 11.00 – 1.30pm for youth band. At these workshops, we work in detail on challenging repertoire through both a full band rehearsal and also sometimes smaller group sectionals with our friendly tutors. On Saturdays, individual 1:1 lessons are available with our professional tutors and must be booked in advance.

During all rehearsals, members are responsible for setting up and putting away their own equipment such as their chair, music stand, music, instruments and are expected to give their best effort and full attention to the musical director and other staff at all times. If a member is unable to attend a rehearsal please let the musical director know in advance so the rehearsal and staffing levels can be planned accordingly.

Safeguarding, DBS and Risk management

We are fully committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our young musicians.

We have a comprehensive safeguarding policy and all our tutors, volunteers and other adults who regularly have contact with the youth band, are fully vetted and DBS checked.

We have vetted and appointed fully qualified, professional tutors to teach our young musicians

Louise Crane BEd (Hons) QTS NPQML

Neale Hobson ARCM PGCE

In addition, we have developed code of conduct for all adults who interact with the youth band. Both the safeguarding policy, the code of conduct, a general risk assessment and many other policies are available at any time on our website <http://www.middletonband.com/youth-band/safeguarding-and-policies/> .

Concerts & Fundraising

As a charity, not for profit organisation providing our instruments and services to our young musicians for free, we rely entirely on income generated from engagements, fundraisers and donations to run the band. As such, we undertake a wide range of concerts and fundraising engagements throughout the year to which members are required to commit to attending.

Where attendance is not possible, due to other commitments or extenuating circumstances such as holidays, illness, bereavement etc. we ask that members / their family let us know in good time so we can arrange for the part to be covered.

The band regularly provide an up to date list of engagements both on paper (sent home with members and displayed in the band room) and in several places online for access any time:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiddletonYouthBand/>

<http://www.middletonband.com/calendar/>

We recommend that members and parents join the above Facebook members and parents group to keep fully up to date with all our exciting news and events. This where we generally communicate any last minute changes to rehearsal schedules so is well worth joining.



MIDDLETON YOUTH BAND

Uniform

Members of both the youth and training band are required to supply their own uniform for concerts. Currently uniform consists of: a white collared school shirt (any length sleeve), a black bow tie, black trousers /skirt (knee length or below), black tights /socks, black smart shoes. We can assist with the purchase of a bow tie if required, though ebay have them for a few pounds.

The band will supply a long tie and waterproof coat for youth band members to wear on outside engagements and to wear on the way to and from engagements. The coat and long tie will remain the property of the band and must be returned to the band alongside any loaned instrument should the member decide to leave the band. There will also be a replacement charge should loss or damage occur.

Leaving the band

It is always sad when members leave the band for whatever reason – relocation, other commitments, personal reasons etc. or maybe the young person has decided that it's just not for them. These things happen, however before leaving, please speak to us, maybe we can help to resolve any issues that have cropped up.

Should a member decide to leave, we require that any loaned out instruments and uniform are returned to us cleaned and in working order ASAP so that we may re issue them to other young people who may be waiting.

Contact us

General rehearsal and upcoming engagement queries/ contact

Louise Crane - Youth Band Musical Director 07944396136 Middbandwebmaster@gmail.com

The band can also be messaged directly through both our public Facebook page and private members only group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiddletonYouthBand/>

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The Middleton Band organisation is a registered charity, number 1175298, and is run by an elected committee who can be contacted via our website www.middletonband.com/contact-us/ or via email to our secretary secretary@middletonband.com

