



NORTHERLY WINDS

Wind Quintet

Flute · Oboe · Clarinet · Bassoon · Horn

LOCATION

North West, England

ENSEMBLE

Wind Quintet

FORMATION

Flute: Emily · Oboe: Emily · Horn: Mike · Bassoon: Jon · Clarinet: Beth

CONTACT

admin@northerlywinds.com

About the Ensemble

Northerly Winds (NW5) are a critically acclaimed wind quintet formed from some of the finest freelance musicians in the North West of England. Since formation the quintet has performed to enthusiastic audiences across the region, from Sheffield Cathedral and the Anthony Burgess Foundation in Manchester to Bollington Chamber Society, Spring Bank Arts, WACIDOM, Stockton Heath Music Society, and Crosby Music Festival.

The five members bring extensive orchestral experience — collectively holding credits with the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester Concert Orchestra, English National Ballet, London Concert Orchestra, and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra — alongside postgraduate training at the Royal Northern College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, with further development through Southbank Sinfonia and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.



What People Are Saying

“Thank you for opening up chamber music to a younger audience — your endeavours enriched our Festival programme greatly and in many ways.”

— **Bollington Festival**

“Listening to you guys play was so exhilarating — I was completely wired by the end. I'm really looking forward to seeing you perform again.”

— **Audience Member**

“This was actually the first event like this that I've attended. The idea was to introduce my children to music, but I never expected that I would enjoy it so much myself!”

— **Audience Member**

“It was such a fun, creative and brilliantly performed event. You made the music so engaging for children and adults alike.”

— **Audience Member**

What to Expect

A Northerly Winds concert is anything but ordinary. Expect a lively, vibrant experience that breathes fresh impetus into wind chamber music — programmes that are thoughtfully curated, beautifully performed, and always with an eye on making classical music feel alive, relevant, and genuinely welcoming to every member of the audience, whether they are lifelong concert-goers or complete newcomers.

Repertoire

NW5 draw on the full breadth of the wind quintet canon alongside carefully chosen contemporary works, ensuring every programme offers both the familiar and the revelatory.

Core Repertoire

Nielsen · Ligeti · Barber · Hindemith · Reicha · Danzi · Ibert · Françaix · Janáček · Holst · Arnold · Cambini

Contemporary & Diverse Voices

Valerie Coleman · Amanda Harberg · Julio Medaglia · Oscar Navarro · Mary Howe · Florence Maunders

Formats Available

Full concert programme · Afternoon tea concert · Family & schools programme · Outreach workshop · Festival set



“The Five hit the mark!”

— Stockton Heath Music Society

Diversity & Representation

NW5 are passionate advocates for broadening the classical music canon. Every programme consciously features composers whose voices have been historically under-represented. Highlights include the second known UK performance of a quintet by **Mary Howe** — the first woman to serve on the music faculty at New York University — and the ensemble were gifted a copy of *Fleeting Images* to perform by award-winning composer **Florence Maunders**.

The quintet are currently mid-way through a funding campaign to commission brand-new works for wind quintet, widening the diversity of chamber repertoire and ensuring that audiences and musicians of the future feel represented in the classical music world.

Education & Outreach

Community engagement is central to what NW5 do. Funded workshops have taken the quintet into schools and colleges including **Bury Grammar School** and **Holy Cross College**. The ensemble has also partnered with charities **Archer** and **Unmasked Mental Health**, hosting outreach days that use music as a tool for wellbeing and connection.

In 2026, NW5 took their community work a step further by hosting their own **Play Day event** — a full day of coaching for amateur musicians, working across three wind quintets. The day gave participants the rare opportunity to rehearse and perform alongside professional musicians, and marked an exciting new strand in the ensemble's outreach programme.



Performance Highlights

- Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester
- Sheffield Cathedral
- Bollington Chamber Society Concert Series
- Spring Bank Arts
- WACIDOM
- Stockton Heath Music Society
- Crosby Music Festival

Musician Credits

Each member of Northerly Winds is a sought-after freelance musician whose individual portfolio spans leading UK ensembles and orchestras. Collective credits include:

- Hallé Orchestra
- BBC Philharmonic Orchestra
- Manchester Concert Orchestra
- English National Ballet
- London Concert Orchestra
- Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
- Southbank Sinfonia
- Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Training

- Royal Northern College of Music
- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Southbank Sinfonia (orchestral training)
- Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (orchestral training)

What We Offer

Concert Programme

Full evening or afternoon concert with pre-concert talk and audience Q&A;

Afternoon Tea Concert

Our signature relaxed format — music, stories and tea, perfect for festivals & societies

Family & Schools

Specially crafted concerts and workshops that bring young audiences into the music

Outreach Days

In-depth workshops in schools, colleges & community settings, with charity partnerships

Festival & Outdoor

Flexible sets tailored to festival stages, gardens, and outdoor events

Bespoke Commission

Work with us to programme new diverse repertoire, including freshly commissioned works

“An unbelievable treat to have professional musicians come and visit our school. I want to shake you all by the hand individually!”

— Headteacher, Primary School Outreach Visit



GET IN TOUCH

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FACEBOOK

northerlywinds.com

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