

# NMPAT

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

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To whom it may concern,

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) are very pleased to support the development of a new collaborative project bringing together our young musicians, choreographer Lisa Spackman, and the professional dancers of Two Thirds Sky. This partnership presents an exciting opportunity to explore fresh interpretations of Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, re-working and re-imagining selected movements through a combined lens of live music and contemporary dance. The chance for our students to engage creatively with professional artists will be invaluable in broadening their artistic understanding and strengthening their confidence as emerging performers.

We would be delighted to host a workshop and residency period between Winter 2026 and Spring 2027, providing structured time and space for this creative exploration to flourish. Through this residency, our young musicians will have the opportunity to develop not only their musical skills but also their collaborative, compositional, and performance capabilities in response to movement and choreography. This project aligns closely with NMPAT's commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive and aspirational arts experiences for young people across Northamptonshire, and we look forward to supporting the partnership as it develops.

In addition, we warmly welcome the opportunity to collaborate and consult on the musical re-imagining and rearrangement of Holst's original score to suit different instrumental forces within our ensembles. Working alongside professional artists to adapt such an iconic work will offer our musicians valuable insights into orchestration, creative decision-making, and the practical considerations of arranging for varied ensemble combinations. This process will not only deepen their understanding of *The Planets* but also encourage them to think innovatively about how music can be reshaped to serve new artistic purposes.

Iain McKnight  
Director of Ensembles and Partnerships  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2026