Services
For Education

Welcome to our Festive Concerts

Few things are more uplifting than seeing young people come together through music and song, and our annual Festive Concerts capture that spirit beautifully. We are delighted to celebrate the season with an evening showcasing the skill, enthusiasm and promise of talented young musicians and singers from schools across Birmingham.

For many of the children taking part, tonight will be their first concert with us—an exciting milestone and the beginning of what we hope will be a lasting love of performance. They join a proud tradition of thousands of Birmingham schoolchildren who have shared their music with audiences locally and nationally. Last month, our **Jazz Band** represented Birmingham at the **Music for Youth Proms** at London's **Royal Albert Hall**, performing alongside young musicians from across the country.

Throughout the past twelve months, I have been deeply inspired by the commitment of our young people, the passion of our music tutors and the unwavering support of Birmingham's schools and partners. We are particularly grateful to **Arts Council England** and, fittingly, the **Ruddock Performing Arts Centre** for helping to make opportunities such as these possible.

Our Festive Concerts are a celebration not only of the season, but also of the dedication, creativity and remarkable achievements of everyone involved. To every performer, family member, teacher, tutor, partner and organiser, thank you for the part you have played in bringing this special occasion to life. I hope you enjoy a truly memorable and heart-warming evening.

Season's greetings,

Richard Mabbott

Head of Music Service

12th December 2026 – 7PM
Ruddock Performing Arts Centre

Compere: Adam Hickman

Birmingham Schools' Training Guitar Ensemble

Conductor: Tom Reed

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Theme from Adventure Cat
Tom Reed, Verity Reed & Kate Shipley

Igor's Secret
Jamie Fekete

It's Just A Matter of Time
Nick Powlesland arr. Tom Reed

It's Begininng To Look A Lot Like Christmas
Meredith Wilson arr. Tom Reed

Last Christmas
George Michael arr. Tom Reed

Birmingham Schools' Training Guitar Ensemble

Conductor: Tom Reed

Theme from Adventure Cat
Tom Reed, Verity Reed & Kate Shipley

Igor's Secret
Jamie Fekete

It's Just A Matter of Time
Nick Powlesland arr. Tom Reed

It's Begininng To Look A Lot Like Christmas
Meredith Wilson arr. Tom Reed

Last Christmas
George Michael arr. Tom Reed

Birmingham Schools' Recorder Ensemble

Conductor: Michelle Holloway

Birmingham Schools' Junior String Orchestra

Conductor: Kirsteen Scott

Concerto in D

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Antonio Vivaldi arr. Bob Phillips

Nomadic Journey
Carol Brittin Chambers

Secret Agent Sugar Plum
Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky arr. Scott Watson

The Chronicles of Narnia *(The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe)*
Harry Gregson-Williams arr. Larry Moore

Sir Duke

Stevie Wonder arr. Robert Ramskill

Dance of the Mirlitons

Tchaikovsky arr. David Bussick

Cantique de Noel

Adolphe Adam arr. David Bussick

'Troika' from *Lieutenant Kije*

Sergei Prokofiev arr. David Bussick

INTERVAL

Birmingham Schools' Wind Orchestra

Conductor: Tom Stoneman

Concert Prelude
Philip Sparke

Hymn to the Fallen
John Williams arr. Paul Lavender

Troika
Serge Prokofieff arr. Harold L Walters

The Polar Express – Concert Suite
Alan Silvestri arr. Jerry Brubaker

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Sir Duke

Stevie Wonder arr. Robert Ramskill

Dance of the Mirlitons

Tchaikovsky arr. David Bussick

Cantique de Noel

Adolphe Adam arr. David Bussick

'Troika' from *Lieutenant Kije*

Sergei Prokofiev arr. David Bussick

List of ensembles and schools playing tonight

- Training Guitar Ensemble
- Recorder Ensemble
- Junior String Orchestra
- Wind Orchestra

Photography/Filming Guidance For Parents/Carers and Concert Attendees - Please Read
This information is for concert attendees who do not work for Services For Education.

1. Services For Education will not take and use identifiable images of children and young people (under 18 years old) without permission from a parent/carer to do so.
2. Parents/carers are asked annually to accept our SFE filming and photography policy. Changes can be made to the permissions at any time in the year using the ensembles portal.
3. At events we ask parents/carers to be mindful of other children and ensure photos are only for personal use. Should you wish to share a photograph on social media, it must be a long-range photograph that doesn't clearly identify any other children/ young people.
4. Please check your privacy settings on your social media account to understand who else will be able to view any images they share.
5. Where photographs are taken at an event attended by large crowds (a concert or awards event for example), this is regarded as a public area, so it is not necessary to get permission of everyone in a crowd shot. However, we will always gain permission from parents/carers for any children who appear and are identifiable in these images.
6. If you have any concerns about images being shared, please contact us at marketing@servicesforeducation.co.uk or if you have any questions relating to data protection please contact the company's Data Protection Officer, tel: (0)121 366 9950, email dpo@servicesforeducation.co.uk

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13th December 2026 – 6PM
Ruddock Performing Arts Centre

Compere: Sara Wilson

Birmingham Schools' Double Reed Ensemble

Conductor: Lesley Morson

Brindisi *(Drinking Song)*
Verdi trans. David Bussick

Fairytale of New York
The Pogues arr. Alison Giles

All I Want for Christmas is You
Mariah Carey arr. Alison Giles

Birmingham Schools' Raga and Tala Ensemble

Leader: Gurdeep Singh-Dharni

Vilambit Gat in Teentaal (Slow Tempo)
Gurdeep Singh-Dharni

Folk Music – Popular 8 Beats (Raga Yaman Kalyan)
Gurdeep Singh-Dharni

Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble

Conductor: Nick Chamberlain

Yellow Train
Jürg Kindle

Allegro *from Concerto in A Minor (Opus 3, No.8)*
Antonio Vivaldi arr. Nick Chamberlain

Swing 42
Django Reinhardt arr. Nick Chamberlain

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INTERVAL

Birmingham Schools' Jazz Band

Conductor: Alicia Gardener-Trejo

A Celebration of the Big Band Greats – "*Nestico & Ellington*"

Birmingham Schools' Concert Band

Conductor: Saphran Ali

New Forest March
Johnnie Vinson

Byzantine Dances
Carol Brittin Chambers

Christmas at the Movies
arr. John Moss

Underneath the Tree
Kelly Clarkson & Greg Kurstin arr. Dorothy Orr

List of ensembles and schools playing tonight

- Double Reed Ensemble
- Raga and Tala Ensemble
- Guitar Ensemble
- Jazz Band
- Concert Band

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