



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association North of England Branch North West England Section

Prepare for 2022, obtain a critique by Playing for Sheets.

The objective of this Open event is to provide a Band with a challenge on their journey of preparing for the 2022 Season as they return to practices following the Covid-19 enforced lockdown.

The aim is to enable a Band to obtain feedback on their progress, in a non-competitive way, where the feedback can be used as a pointer as to influence their Winter development.

This is not a competition; performances will not be ranked, or places indicated.

The critique sheets when completed will only be made available to the Band Contact (Pipe Major or Secretary) as per the entry form.

Format and Entry Criteria

The Music Board recommended that the online format be run as a pilot (through a Branch) as the number of Bands prepared to submit an entry so soon after returning to practices would be low.

The event is open to any Band who has paid the RSPBA Membership Fee for 2021 and there will be no Entry Fee payable to take part in the event.

To manage the pilot and its costs the number of performance places will be limited to 23 per section (the cut off generally used for heats). Places will be allocated on a first received basis as entry forms are submitted.

As this is not a competition there will be two sections available for entry; 1) March Selection / MSR or 2) Medley. A Bands entry must be aligned with the playing requirements of their Grade as published by the Music Board.

Bands will need to complete an Entry Form, which will require the Band Name and Grade; Contact Details (Pipe Major or Secretary); The section entered; The name of the tunes the Band is playing and is to be signed by a Band official.

The performance must be submitted as one continuous video in MP4 format. The video must start with an introduction, ***"This is <Band> <Grade ?>, playing in the [March/Medley] Section of the Playing for Sheets initiative run by the North West England Section of the RSPBA."*** This can be spoken, or a notice



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used with the words visible on screen. This is to ensure that each video was made specifically for this event.

The Band will be required to confirm they have the consent of all parties involved in the video for it to be used for the purpose stated, "Playing for Sheets". This consent must include the Band having parental / guardian consent under the Bands Safeguarding policy where a young person (under 18 years of age) has performed in the video.

The Band is also asked to consider granting permission for the submitted video to be placed on the social media channels of the North West England Branch / Section, following the distribution of the critique sheets to the Band Official.

All documentation and videos submitted will be held and used only for the purpose of this event. The event organiser will delete the Drop Box folder, entry forms, videos and critique sheets made available no later than the 4th January 2022.

The critique sheets will be produced as quickly as possible by the appointed panel members after the closing date. It is anticipated this will be achieved by the end of November 2022.

The event organiser will be collating the critique sheets, which will be sent to the contact details specified on the Entry form.

Those Bands who wish to enter need to complete these tasks any time before the closing date (5th November 2021):

- Complete and submit the entry form (link below)
- submit the video recording of your performance.

Guidance on producing the best quality recordings

- Record your performance on your mobile phone or webcam, ideally in landscape position rather than portrait.
- If recording indoors choose an environment with good acoustics, ie. a room with soft furnishings, curtains, etc, that would dampen echo and reverb.
- If recording outdoors try to minimise any background noise that might detract or distract from your performance.
- If using a smart phone or similar device, make sure it is switched to "Flight Mode" to prevent any incoming notifications or interruptions.



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- Feel free to record your performance as many times as you wish until you have one that you are happy to submit. Once submitted, it cannot be changed.

How to submit your entry

1. Download and complete your entry form here [Playing for Sheets Entry Form](#)
2. Prefix the file name of your Entry Form and Video(s) with your Band Number.
3. Upload your performance video(s) and completed entry form to the Playing for Sheets DropBox folder by clicking on this link [Playing for Sheets](#).

No entries will be accepted after Fri 5th November 2021.

If you have any queries you'd like answered before submitting an entry feel free to email me, Paul Brown, the Event Organiser, paul.brown@rspba.org.