



Welcome

We are so delighted to be able to welcome you to the National Centre for Early Music (NCEM). We have prepared the following information to help you get acquainted with the NCEM before your visit.

If you have any questions before you arrive, please contact us and ask for Chris, Emily or Libby who will be happy to help you. You can also arrange a visit before you come to an event.

There are a lot of staff at events to help you if you have questions or require assistance. They will be wearing NCEM name badges and will be standing near the doors to the Church or behind the Bar.

If you have any comments or feedback on this guide, please do let us know.

Accessing the NCEM

The NCEM is fully accessible to wheelchair users, with level access to the Foyer and performance space, suitable toilets, designated parking, a separate quiet space available to everyone (where practical) and welcomes registered assistance dogs.

Further details on access within the NCEM is available at [National Centre for Early Music | Accessible](#)

There are two entrances to the NCEM, both of which will be signposted by a floor-standing noticeboard:

Percy's Lane Entrance (off Navigation Road)

This is the main entrance to the NCEM. It is located on a quiet road. Access is through two grey metal gates (width 100cm to 210cm). The NCEM sign on the wall to the right of the gates is illuminated at night.



The National Centre for Early Music
St Margaret's Church, Walmgate, York YO1 9TL

Promoted by The York Early Music Foundation Registered Office: NCEM, St Margaret's Church, Walmgate, York, YO1 9TL
Registered Charity Number: 1068331 | Certificate of Incorporation: 3499629 | VAT Registration Number: 708709812

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Step-free access is via a paved ramp which is 100cm wide at its smallest point. There are 2 steps up to the building. These vary in height from 14cm to 15cm. Metal railings are painted grey and can be rough to touch and become wet if it rains.



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The front glass door will open automatically outwards when approached and can also be opened by pressing the grey buttons to the left and right of the door. If the press pads are disabled, please ring the doorbell to the left or right of the door and a member of NCEM staff will greet you.



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Walmgate Entrance

Please enter via the black iron gateway (width 140cm). This entrance is located on a busy main road.



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Continue through the grey metal gate (width 120cm) along the stone pathway (please take care when wet) leading through the Churchyard to the Foyer. There are no steps via the Walmgate entrance.



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Inside the NCEM

The Foyer area includes the Box Office desk, Bar and public and accessible toilets. This area can be quite noisy with background chatter, laughter and other noises at the start of an event, during the interval or after an event. Floor is dark vinyl.

There are signs to the toilet facilities on the walls.



Depending on the event, you may not be allowed to take drinks into the Church.

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Buying a Ticket

The NCEM Box Office desk is located in the Foyer and can become busy. The counter is 112cm high with a lower counter at the end for wheelchair access (height 77cm). It is wooden and smooth to touch.



There are spotlights in the ceiling and in the display cabinet under the Box Office desk. Light levels are constant, but this area is much brighter than the rest of the building.

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You can collect or buy tickets here using cash or card (except American Express). To ensure that the entire community can access our events the NCEM offer a complimentary ticket to an essential personal assistant. Further information is available at [Accessibility – NCEM](#).

Leaflets and brochures have information about future events (not all of them are happening at the NCEM) - feel free to take them.

Chairs are provided for customer use at any time.

The Church/Auditorium

The Church has stone flooring and can be uneven in places. There may be a queue to get into the Auditorium and you will need to show your ticket to stewards before entering.

This Auditorium is a tall room with stone columns (which can affect some sightlines).



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Depending on the event, seating will be arranged in rows or cabaret-style with chairs around round tables. There will be approximately 47cm between each row of seats, although this is not guaranteed.

Cabaret tables: up to 9 chairs set around each large table, all facing forward. There is very limited space between them. Up to 4 chairs around each small round table (painted wood and smooth to touch).

The chairs are covered in a blue fabric and have a seat height of 44cm. The back is 45cm high. The legs and frame of the chairs a smooth metal.

Lighting in the auditorium can be a numerous array of colours and brightness depending on the event. Candelabras may also be using to illuminate the auditorium.

Green running man signs above the fire exit doors show the direction you need to go in an emergency.

There is one entrance for the audience into the Auditorium via a short, enclosed glass corridor - doors are not power-assisted but remain open until the event starts. Doors vary in width from 100cm to 130cm.



Wheelchair spaces will always be reserved on the front row (stage left) and back row (centre stalls).

General noise will be dependent on the type of event.

There will be staff to guide you to your seat and around the venue at every event so you can ask for help. They will be wearing NCEM name badges.