

## Terms and Conditions for Academy and County Groups Membership

### Academy@Maestros and County Group Membership

Membership of the Academy @ Maestros/County Groups can be competitive and requires an audition/assessment on an annual basis. All current members may be required to audition and new applicants must attend an audition/assessment before an offer of a place will be made or renewed.

### Auditions and Assessments

Students can be put forward for an audition/assessment by their teacher or their parent by using the online link in the relevant Academy@Maestros and County Group pages. Auditions and assessment arrangements will be made appropriate to the age, standard and experience of each individual student. An audition/assessment date and time will be issued to you upon receipt of your completed application.

Academy@Maestros and County Group Members are continually assessed throughout the year and are expected to maintain high levels of progress and commitment in their musical activities including continuing regular music centre ensembles.

### Fees

Academy@Maestros and County Group fees are reviewed annually and a summary of our fees can be downloaded from our website. N.B. Please note the fees are subject to change as of 1 September 2017.

County Group and Advanced Level Academy memberships are invoiced as an annual fee due to limited availability of places and the provision of a majority of activities in the autumn and spring terms. The summer term activities are generally lighter due to school examination schedules.

Debut and Intermediate Level Academy memberships are invoiced as a termly fee to accommodate the flexible nature of entry in to the scheme and varied rates of progression at this age and standard.

Invoices are sent out during August and payment is due upon receipt of the invoice. Payment by instalments can be arranged for the whole of your music tuition – please contact [finance@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:finance@berkshiremaestros.org.uk) to ask for more details.

Failure to pay fees will lead to the withdrawal of membership of the County Group and the Academy@Maestros and may also result in an additional sum being invoiced in lieu of notice. Any discounts or other reduced fees that may be offered under the Academy@Maestros scheme are applied at the discretion of Maestros. No discounts are applied to Academy/County membership as these are already heavily subsidised.

Separate fees are charged for residential courses, tours, coach trips etc...

## Attendance

County Group and Academy@Maestros memberships are bespoke opportunities tailored to provide the highest level of music making for the most advanced and promising young musicians. Students are expected to commit fully to the preparation of, and participation in, County Group and Academy@Maestros activities. Student absence at this level severely impacts the quality of the experience for all members and jeopardises choices of repertoire, rehearsal schedules, staffing requirements and ensemble development. It is expected that all students will desire to fulfil their memberships and actively manage their schedules to be able to take part fully.

In addition the following groups require:

**Berkshire Youth Choirs** - students will not be able to participate in a concert where they have missed two or more rehearsal sessions.

**Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra** – students are expected to commit to the entire rehearsal schedule (published at audition). In exceptional circumstances students may be permitted absence for 1 part of a rehearsal session if agreed in advance with the orchestral manager and curricular head. Students are expected to manage their school and work schedules appropriately to facilitate full participation in the rehearsal and concert programme.

**Berkshire Youth Guitar Orchestra** - students will not be able to participate in a concert where they have missed two or more rehearsal sessions.

Berkshire Maestros reserves the right to withdraw membership on the grounds of lack of attendance, practice and commitment and may result in the full membership being payable. Any such decisions will be under the discretion of the relevant Curricular Head and Head of the Academy@Maestros in consultation with the student and parent/carer.

## Withdrawal

Half a term's notice of withdrawal from any County Group or Academy@Maestros membership should be sent in writing to [county@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:county@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

Withdrawal from a County Group or Advanced Level Academy membership partway through the year will result in the full year's membership being payable unless another student can be found to take the position or if the withdrawal is due to medical reasons.