

General Information on Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Education Hub 2016

Berkshire Music Education Hub

The Berkshire Music Education Partnership (BMEH) exists to ensure that all children and young people are able to access and enjoy the best possible musical education with integrated opportunities to explore, develop and pursue personal musical interests. The partnership aims to ensure that all aspects of provision are fully integrated and strategically planned and that scarce resources are maximised and shared for the benefit of all children and young people across the county. The Hub consists of a number of key partners who each bring skills, knowledge, expertise and resources that they share for the long term benefit of all participants.

The focus of all aspects of our work is the child. At all stages of the child's development, the Leaders of the Partnership seek to ensure joined up provision – from early musical experiences, through the child's National Curriculum and as the child develops, through targeted support for individual aspirations. Our challenge is to ensure that learning and development is personalised to each individual.

Aspects of provision are externally funded: the child's school curriculum through the Direct School's Grant; instrumental and vocal learning both in schools and in music centres and a structure of ensemble provision through the Government Music Grant. These Government funded aspects are enhanced further by contributions from parents; charitable trusts; commercial sponsorship; fund raising and from support from voluntary and community organisations and where possible from participating Local Authorities. The success of the partnership is judged by the extent to which participants develop and sustain a lifelong passion for music and music making together with life skills, social skills and the development of enquiring minds and creativity.

Berkshire Maestros

Berkshire Maestros is a charitable trust (284555) providing music education opportunities to children and young people across Berkshire. Our mission is to inspire children and young people to engage in making music and to achieve their potential through joyful involvement with musical activities and opportunities. Working in partnership with parents, local authorities, schools, partners and the local community, Maestros aims to provide a high quality, comprehensive musical experience to the widest group of pupils, regardless of their background, ability or financial circumstances.

Established in 1982 to support the development of young musicians throughout Berkshire, in 1992 the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust was reshaped to become a much larger charity delivering a comprehensive range of music services under contract to Berkshire County Council. In 1998, Berkshire County Council was abolished and replaced by Unitary Authorities. The Trust rebranded as Berkshire Maestros (Maestros) in 2007 and took an even wider remit for providing music services throughout the area. In April of 2012, Maestros was awarded by Arts Council England the contract to lead the 'Music Hub' for Berkshire and the delivery of the National Plan for Music Education and subsequently, the Schools' Music Education Plan.

Every week during the academic year, nearly 6,000 students receive instrumental lessons in school or at one of our five music centres. These centres serve young people in Reading, Wokingham, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest. We also offer lessons and ensemble opportunities in two satellite music centres in Wokingham and will be expanding localized provision in West Berkshire and Caversham in the near future. Tuition covers all instrumental families; brass, guitar, keyboard, percussion, strings, woodwind and voice and encompasses a wide range of styles and genres. We also deliver lessons in composition and music technology.

We provide our students with opportunities to participate in a variety of orchestras, bands, chamber groups and choirs ranging from beginner level groups to advanced ensembles for our most gifted and talented musicians. We have a thriving Academy@Maestros programme of enrichment activities and courses for young people

demonstrating exceptional musical ability and potential and hold a comprehensive Register of Exceptional Musical Ability (REMA) in order to ensure we provide a personalised learning pathway for each child to support them in realising their musical potential.

Our top level County Groups also attract large numbers of the most advanced performers from across the county and beyond. Many of these perform on tours in Europe and in national competitions as well as concerts across the county and over recent years, several Maestros ensembles have been selected to participate in the Music for Youth School Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. Many of our students go on to pursue their passion for music at nationally renowned conservatoires and universities, going on to hold places in world renowned orchestras.

As part of our role as lead organisation for the Berkshire hub, we also deliver the government's First Access Programmes in almost all primary schools across Berkshire affording all Year 3 or 4 pupils the opportunity to start learning a musical instrument in line with the National Plan for Music Education. Our continuation rates are consistently high but there is still work to be done in future years in order to ensure the long term success of these programmes.

Our innovative 'Learn it Live'© Programme offers schools the opportunity to participate in live, interactive performances and workshops of A level and GCSE set works. This area of support for schools is growing annually, expanding in 2016-17 to include activities for KS3 AGT pupils as well as including creative workshops and opportunities for KS2 pupils to hear wonderful music live in professional venues such as the Hexagon Theatre. We also offer a comprehensive range of musical services to all ages, including Early Years and adults and are working with a number of external musical providers in the area to ensure that a wide variety of high quality musical opportunities is available to not only all children and young people but members of the wider community and music practitioners across the sector. We offer a comprehensive Continual Professional Development programme to Senior Management Teams, music subject leaders and teachers across the county, leading and participating in termly networking meetings which facilitate the sharing of good practice. Our new Support Services for Schools programme for 2017-8 will be available in January.

We have over 80 full time contracted musical professionals currently on staff as well as another 100 part time and self-employed musical experts who work with us regularly to provide musical tuition, ensemble direction and high quality musical experiences. Due to recent growth and expansion, Berkshire Maestros will be seeking a further number of high-calibre and enthusiastic graduate musicians for September 2017 to join our unique paid internship programme.

Due to unprecedented expansion across the Hub, we also seek a number of experienced musicians and teachers who are interested in working with one of the country's most successful Music Hubs. We would like to hear from specialists in upper strings, woodwind, trumpet, trombone, French Horn, voice (all genres), piano, guitar (classical, bass and electric guitar), Early Years and percussion. Development of contemporary music, music theatre, choral amateur and primary singing/choral development, creative learning and composition are also planned and we would particularly like to hear from practitioners who could offer skills in these areas.

We also have a number of roles available with added responsibility for teachers looking for their first steps on the leadership ladder.

For further information about these opportunities and about Maestros and the Hub please see: www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk or contact dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk