

## **County and Academy Co-ordinator (non-orchestral groups)**

The role of County Activities Co-ordinator (*non-orchestral groups*) runs side by side with that of the County Activities Co-ordinator (*orchestral groups*) to provide administrative support to a wide variety of musical colleagues in their delivery of the highest quality music making opportunities for gifted, talented and promising young musicians across Berkshire. It is also the public face of the Academy@Maestros for parents at concerts, events and during office hours on the phone, via email or in person.

Primarily the role will support the following areas:

### **Academy@Maestros**

The Academy@Maestros provides gifted, talented and promising young musicians in Berkshire with personalised extension and enrichment activities designed to inspire and motivate students to realise their full creative potential. We aim to identify promising young musicians at the earliest possible opportunity and use the **Register of Exceptional Musical Ability** to create personalised learning pathways and monitor the progress of talented young musicians from beginner to advanced level.

The Academy@Maestros activities operate in three tiers; debut (beginner to grade 3), intermediate (grade 3-6) and advanced (grade 6+). Through a variety of courses, workshops, masterclasses and special events the Academy@Maestros creates opportunities for the most able young musicians to play and learn alongside specialist instrumental staff, visiting professional players, composers and amateurs and join in with side by side events with our County Youth Ensembles.

The Academy@Maestros can also provide some support financially with the cost of additional activities, lesson extensions with specialist teachers and directing parents and teachers towards help for purchasing high quality instruments which will allow students to realise their potential.

### **The Register of Exceptional Musical Ability**

The **Register of Exceptional Musical Ability** is maintained by the Berkshire Music Hub. It allows schools, music teachers and parents to work together to support, inspire and motivate the most promising young musicians in Berkshire. Recommendations are made by the teacher, school or parent, and assessments are made by the Academy Senior Leader during lessons or ensemble sessions. The register is reviewed termly by the Academy Senior Leader. Inclusion in **REMA** provides extension and enrichment opportunities for promising young musicians with a keen awareness of their personal, social and musical needs including:

- **Specialist instrumental/vocal tuition**
- **Guidance for ensemble membership**
- **Tailor-made workshops and concert events**

**REMA** also provides a pathway for future membership to Academy@Maestros and Berkshire county youth ensembles.

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## **Berkshire County Youth Choirs**

Berkshire County Youth Choirs bring together young singers from across the county to enjoy singing whilst learning interesting repertoire and useful techniques. They perform in several concerts a year, some in high profile venues and some in partnership with other musical organisations. The county choirs are selective and entry is by audition only, but the emphasis is upon finding singers with potential who love making music with others. Rehearsals take place on Saturday afternoon and evenings.

Berkshire Children's Choir is for children in years 4-7, Berkshire Young Voices is for learners in years 7-9 and Berkshire Youth Choir is for students in years 9-13.

In addition to supporting the work of the three County Choirs administrative support is also provided for bespoke choral projects and advanced academy choral workshops ie: sight singing classes, early music workshops, performance classes and more.

## **Guitar Academy**

The Guitar Academy provides opportunities for the most gifted and talented guitar players from Berkshire. Divided into levels, the structure has been designed to challenge and stretch the existing abilities of the students to enable them to progress confidently. Debut students experience termly events including consultation lessons and one-off workshops to inspire and motivate in the early stages of development. Intermediate students have a regular schedule of rehearsals and teaching based at Stoneham Court. The intermediate programme has been devised to provide a diverse range of high quality learning opportunities for all of the students. There will also be the chance to perform in concerts and participate in activities alongside Berkshire Youth Guitar Orchestra (BYGO). Advanced students (who are usually also a member of BYGO) receive termly consultation lessons with conservatoire tutors in addition to a selection of course based projects to challenge and refine ensemble and solo performance skills.

## **Berkshire Youth Guitar Orchestra**

BYGO is a very simple concept: bring together the best classical guitarists in the area to play music, have fun and perform at the very highest level. It has a growing national reputation for high standards, professionalism and level of performance, and has won praise from international guitarists.

BYGO made their debut at Newbury International Spring Festival performing with Craig Ogden. It has performed at the prestigious Wigmore Hall in London, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, and has performed for the Queen. In addition to a busy concert schedule, it has toured to China, Italy, Spain, Germany, Holland and Belgium.

Rehearsals take place at Reading Music Centre between September and April, rehearsing on a Monday night from 6.45pm to 9.00pm. During the summer term, rehearsals take place once a month, usually on Sundays, to allow students time to focus on exams.

## **Learn It Live**

'Learn It Live' is Berkshire Music Education Hub's innovative and interactive performance workshops for secondary schools. Workshops and events are designed to inspire, challenge and motivate promising young musicians to realise their full potential, combining interactive live performances of set works with detailed musical analysis and composition. Performances and activities are carefully tailored to encourage students to interact with the performers through creative games, exercises and performance tasks linked to the areas of study; nurturing inquisitive mind sets and harnessing the power of live music-making.