

# gifted & talented



## Let Berkshire Maestros help you reach your potential

We strive to nurture our most gifted and talented young musicians, supporting their development and inspiring them by opening up a range of exciting musical possibilities.

Offered at three levels: *Gold, Silver and Bronze*, Academy @ Maestros allows gifted and talented pupils to develop their skills further.

Each package has a single 'all inclusive' cost although in

response to requests from parents – extras can be purchased.

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# What you need to know



This is an at a glance guide. The following pages provide more detail on the packages

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Typical age range	Age 7 to 12	Age 11 to 18	Age 14 to 18
Approx. standard	Pre-Grade 1 to Grade 3	Grade 4 +	Grade 6 +
Lesson	Pair 30 minute lesson with a specialist teacher*	Individual 30 minute lesson*	Individual 30 minute lesson*
Ensembles	Music Centre initial ensemble	2 including County Group (if applicable)	3 including County Group
Free extras	Choir	Choir + 1 additional Music Centre activity	Choir
Other	Special events	Special events	Monday evening music academy
Total cost	£175 per term	£350 per term	£530 per term
	* Individual 20 minute lesson in exceptional circumstances	* Can be topped up to 40 or 60 minutes if required	* Can be topped up to 40 or 60 minutes if required

**"I didn't know I could be so creative"**

# What the scheme offers

## Bronze

For 7 – 12 year olds showing exceptional promise in their weekly group lessons or Wider Opportunities project sessions. Benefits of the package include:



- Top quality specialist tuition
- The chance to **make new friends** and have fun making music with other talented young musicians in a regular weekly initial Music Centre ensemble
- The opportunity to develop a whole range of musical skills whilst enjoying singing in a Music Centre choir as **a free extra!**
- Access to **special events** such as percussion/rhythm workshops, creative composition and specialist courses

All of which will provide a 'stepping stone' to the next level...

## Silver

For 11 – 18 year olds, to enable more advanced Gifted and Talented students to develop and broaden their musical skills in addition to their personalized learning for their specialised instrument/voice.

- An individual 30 minute lesson with a specialist teacher.
- Membership of 2 ensembles providing **exciting performance opportunities** and the chance to further develop instrumental/vocal skills as an extension to the weekly lessons
- **Free extras** include choir membership and one other Music Centre activity such as Theory lessons or a chamber ensemble (e.g. Clarinet choir, jazz band, string quartet)
- Opportunities to perform in concerts, with an accompanist if appropriate. This forms part of continuous assessment and offers the chance to develop confident performance skills with help from your teacher and other senior Maestros staff.
- Special **fun events** organised throughout the year. Typically these might include performance, composition or improvisation workshops and an appropriate instrument/voice specific event
- **Exciting specialist events** vary from year to year but might include activities such as a reedmaking workshop or a Baroque string day.

The Silver level provides a 'stepping stone' for students to progress to Gold level and there will be an opportunity during the year for some combined activities.

Very  
imaginative  
concept;  
great fun  
with lots to  
do –  
thanks!

*Student feedback on a  
composing session*



## County Groups

Gold and most Silver students are expected to join a Maestros County Group.

Choose from:

Young Voices

Youth Choir

Senior Girls Choir

Youth Orchestra

Youth String Ensemble

Youth Guitar Ensemble

Youth Guitar Orchestra

Youth Recorder Consort

Youth Brass Band  
(sponsored by Dawsons)

Youth Percussion/Marimba  
Ensemble (sponsored by  
DrumWright)

Be prepared to:

Give a high level of  
commitment

Attend all the rehearsals

Do the required practice  
and preparation

Take part in all the  
scheduled performances  
throughout the year

## Gold

Becoming a Gold level student represents the pinnacle of achievement for Berkshire's young musicians, whether they are hoping to make a career in music or are just passionate about instrumental playing or singing. For 14 – 18 year olds, the Gold level package offers exciting performance opportunities, access to special events and the chance to work with other outstanding young musicians at the Maestros Monday evening Music Academy.

## Gold Level Music Academy

At the hub of Gold level membership is the Monday evening Music Academy. Each week at around 5pm, students come together at Stoneham Court (our dedicated Music Centre based in Tilehurst) to get creative!

Typically, students will take part in a whole range of activities including:

- Minimum of 30 minutes regular individual tuition from one of the region's best teachers
- Regular chamber music sessions
- Working with a professional accompanist
- Improving posture through Alexander Technique
- Developing musicianship and performance skills

The Music Academy will also feature a programme of additional activities such as:

Improvisation sessions  
Percussion workshops  
Music theatre  
Composition

30 Music Academy sessions are spread out over the year. A minimum of 24 take place at Stoneham Court whilst the others involve exciting concerts and workshops.



## BRONZE LEVEL

**Q Can I join the scheme at Bronze level if I have lessons with a private teacher?**  
**@ Yes, but you will need to switch to having your lessons with a Berkshire Maestros teacher.**

**Q If I apply for Bronze level, will I have my lesson with someone I know?**  
**@ Not necessarily but we will try to group at the Music Centre closest to you so you will meet your lesson partner in your ensemble and soon get to know them. This is all part of the exciting social experience of making music and new friends as well!**

**Q Will I need to audition for a place on the scheme at Bronze level?**  
**@ No, students will be invited to join the scheme at Bronze level on the recommendation of their teacher or headteacher.**

## SILVER LEVEL

**Q Can I join the scheme at Silver level if I have lessons with a private teacher?**  
**@ Yes, but you will need to switch to having your lessons with a Berkshire Maestros teacher.**

**Q Ideally, I would like to have a longer lesson. Is this possible?**  
**@ Yes. The cost of the package includes a 30 minute lesson but this can be topped up to a 40 or 60 minute lesson for an additional fee.**

## GOLD LEVEL

**Q Can I join the scheme at Gold level and continue to have lessons with a private teacher?**  
**@ Yes. You will be able to access the other elements of the package at a discounted rate. You must also ensure that your teacher is registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.**

**Q How many Monday evening sessions are involved?**  
**@ You will be expected to attend a minimum of 24 sessions plus concerts, workshops and events which will also generally take place on Monday evenings.**



**Q Ideally, I would like to have a longer lesson. Is this possible?**  
**@ Yes. The cost of the package includes a 30 minute lesson but this can be topped up to a 40 or 60 minute lesson for an additional fee.**

**Q What kind of performance opportunities will I have as part of the scheme?**  
**@ You will perform in several concerts each year, in ensembles and as a soloist.**

# GENERAL

## Q How do I apply?

@ Discuss this with your teacher first. Complete and return the form opposite. Alternatively, complete our online form. Visit [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/academy](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/academy) to submit your application.

## Q When are the auditions?

@ A single audition will be held for places on the Gold and Silver levels of the Academy @ Maestros scheme and the County Groups for 2010/11. This is an annual, competitive audition. If applying for an instrumental County Group, auditions will take place during the weeks commencing 5 and 12 July 2010. If applying for a County Choir, auditions will take place on Sunday 13 June 2010.

## Q What if I only want to apply for a County Group?

@ Anyone can audition for a place in a County Group. Auditions take place during the weeks commencing 5 and 12 July 2010. Request an application form or visit our website.

## Q How will I know if I have been awarded a place?

@ We write to all applicants to advise whether or not they have been successful.

## Q Are any discounts available?

@ No, the package price shown is a heavily discounted price. However, discretionary fee remissions are available. Please contact us to find out if you are eligible.

## Q Can I apply for any grants to help cover the fees?

@ If you live in Reading, Caversham, Earley and Winnersh (postcode areas RG1, RG2, RG4, RG6 and RG41), you may apply for one of the Study Awards which are available via the Maestros Earley Charity Music Awards (MECMA) scheme. See the website for more details.

## Q Can I spread payments and if so, how does this work?

@ In cases of hardship, this can be agreed with the Finance Manager.

## Q What if I wish to withdraw from the scheme?

@ Places are offered on the understanding that students will remain on the scheme for one full academic year. You may only withdraw at the end of an academic year.

## Q Will photos be taken and used for publicity purposes?

@ Yes, we take photographs at most events and use them in our publicity literature, on our website and we occasionally email them to the local press to accompany features and stories about Berkshire Maestros. We do not name anyone in the photographs without seeking prior permission.

## Q Can I still apply for a place at Silver or Gold level if I am taking a Gap Year?

@ Yes, this is possible subject to compliance with the Independent Safeguarding Authority registration process and subsequent CRB clearance.



# Application Form

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Return form to Academy @ Maestros, Stoneham Court, 100 Cockney Hill, Reading RG30 4EZ

## 1. Enrolment for.... (Please tick box to the right of your relevant choices)

	Gold		Silver		Bronze
New applicant		Re-audition		Name of preferred County Group (if known)	See page 4

## 2. Contact Details

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Authority (please circle)**

Bracknell / Reading / West Berkshire / Windsor & Maidenhead / Wokingham / Other (please specify)

Tel (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer Mob.: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Carer Daytime Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Carer's Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email checked regularly YES / NO (Delete as appropriate)

Maestros Account no. (if applicable) **G:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Education details

Current School / College: \_\_\_\_\_

School / College in September 2010: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Instrument for which application is made

Instrument/Voice \_\_\_\_\_ (For guitar, please specify if classical/electric/bass)

Name of current teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years learning \_\_\_\_\_

Details of any grades passed (include dates) \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Details of existing ensemble memberships

Please list which Music Centre ensembles/County Groups student currently belongs to

## 6. Declaration (to be completed by parent/carer)

I wish to apply for a place on the Academy @ Maestros scheme for \_\_\_\_\_ (name of student)

I have read and accept the terms and conditions published on the Maestros website (hard copy available on request). **If a place is offered, I agree to pay the fees for the above-named student termly in advance and I understand that a student can only withdraw from membership at the end of an academic year.**

If you **do not** wish your child to be included in any photographs taken as part of the scheme, please tick this box

I understand that the information provided on this form will be entered into Berkshire Maestros' database to be used in connection with this application and will conform to the Data Protection Act.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other \_\_\_\_\_ Full name (please print)

## 7. Help with fees

Please tick box if you require a fee remission application (See FAQs)

## 8. Teacher Recommendation

Teacher to sign in support of this application

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## useful contacts



Helen Rawstron  
Leading Professional for the  
Gifted & Talented Programme  
helenrawstron@berkshiremaestros.org.uk



Carol Holliday  
County Activities Manager  
0118 901 2354  
carolholliday@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Want to join the scheme or a County Group?

Just do the following:

- speak to your teacher
- read our terms and conditions online
- complete and return the application form enclosed or apply online

[www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/academy](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/academy)

What to do now



*"Clever, fun and musically awesome"*