

Spring Term 2011

*...teaching music, changing lives!*

Welcome to the Spring Term issue of Maestros News, celebrating our achievements as well as highlighting a number of exciting things to come. We have crammed lots into this edition but there's plenty more to be found online at [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

**Just  
£20 for  
an initial  
term**

**Try something new**

Recently started learning?

Not currently in an ensemble?

**Try a term in a beginner band or choir!**

Our latest special offer means that you can give it a go for just £20. See posters in Music Centres or visit our website for details of qualifying ensembles.

*Terms and conditions apply.*

**MUSIC CENTRES START - 08/01/2011**

*giftaid it*

We can claim GiftAid on donations and ensemble membership fees - tax relief on every pound you give. Look out for further details in your area Music Centre Bulletin. If you qualify, please complete the relevant section on the payment slip at the bottom of your invoice.

## Website update

We have added a channel dedicated to Academy @ Maestros and County Groups. Please also note that details of choirs and ensembles can be found under the Music Centre channel. We hope that these, and future planned changes, will improve navigation around the site giving you easy access to the information you need.

## Sponsor a Child - Can you help?

We are desperately trying to raise awareness of our 'sponsor a child' scheme which helps us give children from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to discover the wonderful world of music.

Visit our website to find out how you can help  
[www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/sponsorachild](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/sponsorachild)

## National Express

*Maestros student, Savannah Brown (15), has recently been accepted into the National Youth Orchestra. In this interview, Savannah tells our editor about the hard work and determination which helped her to become a member of the National Youth Orchestra.*



### How long have you been a part of Maestros?

3 years with Berkshire Youth Orchestra (BYO) and I recently started Wind Ensemble at Reading Music Centre, playing the saxophone.

### Why did you start learning music?

My sister played the violin before I did and it made me really want to learn to play as well. She now plays the viola, so it's really nice both being string players, but on different instruments.

### Tell me about your recent musical achievements.

I led the Berkshire Youth Orchestra concert at Taplow Court in October 2010. I will also be leading the summer 2011 BYO concert at The Hexagon in Reading.

However, my biggest achievement was making it into the National Youth Orchestra. I was successful through two auditions and an application process. I got to a middle seat in the second violins, which is better than I thought I'd get!

I also recently achieved Distinction at grade 8 violin and will be taking my grade 8 saxophone later this term.

### When did you find out you had been accepted into NYO?

The Friday of the BYO concert which I was leading, I found out I'd got in. It was about 5pm in the rehearsal and I saw my mum enter the hall. She played a trick on me and pretended I hadn't got in, but when she told me I had been accepted, I was so excited!

### Best Maestros memory?

At Taplow court, leading BYO. Once the concert had ended and all the pressure was off, I got a big "congratulations" from all my friends. That is my best memory so far.

### Being a successful student, do you have any tips for beginners who may wish to achieve similar success as you?

Never think 'I'm not going to practise today', just do it! The more you practise, the better you'll get. So, a lot of hard work and don't give up!

### Would you like to study music further, as a degree or perhaps make music your career?

I would love to do music at the Royal College of Music or the Royal Academy of Music. Then I would love to become a soloist or a part of an amazing orchestra. I just want to keep on playing the violin for a long time!

### How has Maestros helped you achieve what you have done so far?

BYO has really helped. I was very young when I joined and they were the hardest pieces I had ever played so it really pushed me to do better. It was also excellent orchestra practise and, recently, great experience of being lead violin.

## On the case!

Following their successful fundraising endeavours to go to China this summer, *Acer Saccharum* bassoon quartet had a surplus that they wanted to use to benefit other bassoonists and decided to purchase two gig bags and some cleaners for some recently repaired instruments. One of the gig bags went straight to a pupil in Maidenhead (along with one of the serviced instruments) straight after this picture was taken; he was delighted with it.

The money that *Acer Saccharum* used came specifically from two particular fundraising activities: Maestros teachers, Lorna Rathbone and Bethan Greenaway, were sponsored to sit grade one on a non-specialist instrument. Both achieved extremely high Distinctions and we are really proud of them. Together they raised £130, just enough to cover all the purchases. Pictured are Charlotte Wyatt from *Acer Saccharum* and Bethan Greenaway with the two new gig bags. If you have a child interested in playing the bassoon please contact us (see below).



## Inspiring the next generation

“

Monday last week my daughter brought her clarinet home for the first time. She was so excited, she got it out straight away and then her friend phoned who is also learning the clarinet. They spent 20 minutes on the phone, first agreeing how it should be put together and then taking it in turns to play the one note they knew and commenting on how good (or not) it sounded. While they were on the phone a third friend came to the door, so clarinets were packed away, taken round the corner to the friend's house where an 'orchestra' of 2 clarinets and a trumpet enjoyed music making for the next 45 minutes. Thank you so much for inspiring these children to make music - if they are this enthusiastic with one or two notes, what will it be like when they can play melodies?

”

*Feedback from a parent of a year 4 pupil involved in a Maestros In2Music project at Long Lane Primary School*

## County Groups in the Community

With a view to reaching wider audiences and raising the profile of young musicians, the County Groups have continued their programme of collaboration with other organisations and charities. A successful recording session and a charity concert are just two of the examples this term.

The composer Jonathan Willcocks invited **Berkshire Youth Choir** (BYC) and **Berkshire Young Voices** to join with other singers in recording his new work 'Across the Years'. BYC has enjoyed the first of three workshop days with the BBC Singers in preparation for a performance of Fauré's Requiem with choirs from Windsor secondary schools on 1 April 2011.

**Berkshire Youth Orchestra** and **Dawsons Berkshire Youth Brass Band** helped to raise the profile of a Windsor and Maidenhead charity, People to Places. A celebration concert at Taplow Court marked their achievement of providing minibus transport and Shopmobility to elderly and disabled residents of the Royal Borough for twenty-one years.

All the County Groups attract high achieving students from across Berkshire. The emphasis is on musical excellence and opportunity, widening horizons and personal expectations. Auditions take place in the summer term for entry in September 2011. To read more about forthcoming events and for more details about County Groups and the gifted and talented programme, visit the Academy pages of our website: [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/academy](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/academy)

## Cut-out-and-keep Spring Term 2011 Dates...

**This guide relates to music centre lessons and activities.**

**Lessons and projects in schools vary according to individual timetables and requirements.**

**We advise you to check with your child's school or music teacher for details.**

### January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

### February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

### March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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30						

### KEY

X	NO MUSIC CENTRE TEACHING OR ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE
✓	MUSIC CENTRE TEACHING AND ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE

Further term dates and events can be found at: [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/calendar](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/calendar)

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