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## FEEDBACK FROM JUNIOR MUSIC FESTIVAL AT READING HEXAGON 2015 "YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT"

"The children and I had a great time yesterday! Thank you so much for your hard work and effort into putting on an outstanding concert. Hope to see you soon in my next new role."

"I just wanted to say thank you so much to you, Peter and all the staff at Maestros who helped to make last night such a fabulous experience for the children. It is by far the best concert our choir has taken part in a long time and it was wonderful that they had the opportunity to sing along with such a great band as it really helped the performance to come alive. All of the staff I had with me commented on how great Peter was and the children are very lucky to have been part of such a great event. I still remember my Junior school experience at The Hexagon and I'm sure they will remember theirs too in many years to come. Thanks again for all your hard work. I hope you have a well-earned rest over the weekend."

"Just wanted to say how much we all enjoyed taking part in the concert last Thursday. Thanks for all you and the rest of the team have done. The parents were all very impressed at the standard of the music and singing."

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for all the organising to put on an amazing event at the Hexagon once again. It was a really special night and I have had so many wonderful comments from parents who really enjoyed the evening. Please also pass on my thanks to Peter who did such a brilliant job."

"Just a quick thank you! They were buzzing after the performance and think they totally stepped up their performance from the rehearsal too. Thanks to you and Peter for all your hard work. Look forward to next year!"

"Thanks to you Naomi and Peter for another wonderful concert - we all had a ball and loved the songs - and we enjoyed hosting the area rehearsals too and would be very happy to do so again! The challenge is now to find another wonderful concert for next year - the children at our school will be expecting it!! Thank you for helping make music and performing such fun and so inspirational - I love these events and they are such a necessary balance to all the bureaucracy and slogging away at Maths and English that we and the children have to go through."

### SOME GENERAL COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS:

"Thank you very much for all your hard work, and that of your colleagues, for making the Anvil Concert such a success. I believe this is due in the main to the quality of the preparation materials supplied to schools and of the teaching at the rehearsals. It is a valuable experience for schools the size of ours and one that, I am sure, they will never forget." (Teacher)

"They were great concerts - the band sounded wonderful, very bright and professional. It is fabulous to have a live band - I am sure it does inspire the children. I loved the music and I



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thought the choir and soloists sang really well. Best of all we could see the real joy and enthusiasm in the performers!" (Parent)

"It is great to be part of an organisation which is able to put on such high quality performances and encourage pupils to go further with their musical studies in the way last night's performance did." (Mike Harris - Chair of Trustees, Berkshire Maestros)

"You certainly got the best out of the children with your enthusiasm and obvious pleasure in the results. It makes such a huge difference to them. So thank you on their behalf. I thought the communication was great, especially the early meeting in the autumn. I really liked having the rehearsals in school time it certainly suited me and my children." (Teacher)

"I asked one of our girls how she felt at the end when during the applause. She said "I couldn't stop smiling!" (Teacher)

"I just wanted to pass on thanks to you and the team for such a great evening on Tuesday. I have never been involved with The Anvil performances before - it was such a fantastic opportunity for the children that I wish I and my schools in the past had taken part before. Despite nerves, my group loved it - it was non-stop singing and chat all the way home!"

#### COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS:

##### 2013

"Please pass on my congratulations and delight in All the King's Men:

Having conducted it a couple of times, but with secondary school pupils, I did think Peter would be stretching the designation 'An opera for young people' somewhat dangerously in asking a cast of very young people to perform it, but I was quite wrong in even questioning his decision. The performance was a triumph in every way, but most of all the children will now realise that opera = fun, and that is likely to stick with them henceforward. They also have had an introduction to quality music.

The production was slick and imaginative. The umbrellas solved the Humpty Dumpty staging problem with ease, the chorus doubling Roundheads and Royalists via headgear was another simple but so effective idea, and it also doubled the contribution of the choir and gave them a much greater sense of involvement. I thought the soloists were exceptional (this was on the Thursday), Naomi seemed to be everywhere keeping it moving, and Peter's direction (and chat to the audience) exemplary." (Gwyn Arch)

##### 2012

"The parents of the children involved were effusive in their praise and the children gained so much, as always, from the experience."

"It was a great experience for us being our first concert and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves (a bit jaded this morning)!!"



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“Please also pass on my congratulations to Peter, he really inspires them! Many of my group are in Year 6 and have taken part for 4 years now - they suddenly realised that afternoon that this was their last one, they were genuinely sad and also all the more determined to do it well!”

“What a brilliant two nights! I am in total admiration of the slickness of the operation and also the apparently effortless control you have over the children.”