



Berkshire Music Hub Newsletter Spring 2016



Lynne Ellis, CEO

Dates for your diary:

13 March

Final of [Wind & Brass Competition](#), Windsor

14-16 March

[Newbury Music Centre Junior Music Festival](#), Basingstoke

19 March

BYC in [The Voyage](#) concert, Reading

20 March

First [Walk for China](#) at Dinton Pastures

23-24 March

Easter courses, Reading: [Strings](#) or [Brass/Woodwind/Percussion](#)

Find all of our [forthcoming events](#) on our website

Welcome to our new CEO Lynne Ellis

I write to you as the new CEO of Berkshire Maestros. As you may know, I have worked with Berkshire Maestros as Deputy Head of Service since 2009 following a 28 year career as a music specialist and senior leader within the secondary sector across Berkshire and Hampshire. I am really looking forward to working closely with you to continue developing musical opportunities for all children and young people in Berkshire.

This is a very exciting time for music in Berkshire, especially as the Department for Education has confirmed funding to support music hubs for 2016-17. This means that we can continue supporting the delivery of the National Plan for Music Education with confidence. We look forward to developing our existing partnerships further as well as forging new ones in the next few months.

lynneellis@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

New Senior Manager Appointments

After two days of intense interviewing, we are pleased to announce we have appointed two new senior managers. Our present Head of Guitar, **Steve Christmas**, will take up the role of **Director of Strategic Hub Development** in April, and **Helen Robertson** (who is currently Head of Music at Kennet School) will become our new **Director of Educational Development** after the summer. We are delighted to have been able to offer these new roles to such outstanding colleagues and we look forward to welcoming them to the senior team later this year.

China Tour update

We are asking all students going on the China tour to “walk” to China! The distance from Reading to Beijing is 5084 miles, and we are asking the China participants to walk that distance

Popular on our website now:

[Current vacancies](#)

[Lessons in schools](#)

[Term dates](#)

[Schools](#)

[Contact us](#)

Recent photos:



Guitar Festival Masterclass



Margaretta presenting Pantomimus to music educators



Learn it Live!



Matt King with percussionists at Berkshire Percussion Day

between them to raise funds. Each student needs to walk 31.4 miles so we are organising two Sunday walks at Dinton Pastures, each of 5 miles. The first will be on Sunday 20 March at 3pm, and the second will be on Sunday 17 April at 3pm. Students are responsible for completing the remaining miles themselves and can walk, run or cycle the distance.

More information on the walk and the route can be found [here](#).

Berkshire Percussion Day 2016

On Sunday 7 February over 50 percussionists joined together in Bracknell for the 2nd Annual Berkshire Percussion Day with special guest Professor Matt King from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Royal Marines Band. Everyone was inspired by his passion and unique ability as a percussionist. All students were able to explore basic rudimentary playing on pads and then more specific techniques related to tambourine, cymbals, marimba and snare drum playing. More experienced students were put through their paces individually and one student remarked 'this is a day I will never forget!'. The younger percussionists were really inspired and Matt was suitably impressed! Sincere thanks must go to Matt King for his brilliantly inspirational leadership and how he tailored his delivery to the needs of our students. Thank you also to Nathan Cole and the percussion team, and also Hilary Smethurst-Evans who provided the all-important chilli lunch. Here's looking forward to next year!

Pantomimus at Music Education Expo

Margaretta Burrell and Peter Hunt together presented the Pantomimus project to music education professionals at the Music Mark Conference in November and again at the Music Education Expo at the Olympia in London at the end of February. These are large events and for our Early Years programme Pantomimus to be invited to feature was a great accolade for the team who have created and run it. We are determined to convince many more people of the importance of Early Years music making. These children are our future musicians in the orchestras, choirs and ensembles.

Music Mark Steering Group Research Project

Music Mark, a subject association representing and supporting Music Services and instrumental/classroom music educators, has selected our percussion First Access programme to



Crispian Steele-Perkins with
Camerata and BYGO



Piers Adams Recorder
Roadshow



BYC with BBC Singers at
Maida Vale

From our partner organisations:

Cholsey and Wallingford

Concert Band is looking for new members ahead of their upcoming concerts later this year. They are a friendly band and although all players are welcome, they are currently looking for trumpets, saxophones, trombones and a tuba player. They rehearse on Monday evenings at Cholsey Meadows. For full information please go to their [website](#).

participate in a major research project that they are undertaking later this year. This project is being led by Professor Susan Hallam MBE who is an expert on Education and Music Psychology and we look forward to welcoming her to Berkshire Maestros for her research.

Artsmark

Artsmark is the Arts Council England's flagship programme which enables schools, colleges, pupil referral units and youth offending teams to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their arts and cultural provision.

Now in its fifteenth year, the Artsmark award has helped the Arts Council and schools to ensure all children and young people have access to high quality arts and culture and reach the Arts Council goal of achieving great art and culture for everyone.

Following changes to the educational landscape and as evidence of the impact of high quality cultural education grows, the Arts Council is working with school leaders and specialist arts teachers to update and refresh Artsmark. From September 2015, Artsmark will encourage and support schools to celebrate the strengths in their arts and culture provision, and to celebrate the impact of their arts and culture activities on their community.

The new award is designed by schools, for schools, and will support deeper connections with schools' own strategies, align with school curriculum and planning cycles. Through the new Artsmark, all participating schools will develop a Statement of Commitment to arts and culture that connects to the broader curriculum and help provide evidence for Ofsted.

We do hope hub partners will support and help schools to gain Artsmark status. For further information contact Dr Ruth Taylor ruth@artswork.org.uk.

Customer Services Job Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a new member of staff in our customer services team. If you have good administrative skills and excellent communication skills then please do have a look at the job vacancy details [here](#).

Music Examinations

Any instrumental teacher is welcome to enter their pupils in either Trinity College or ABRSM music examinations through the Music Hub and make use of the excellent facilities at Stoneham Court, Reading. This is a Music Hub facility and there is no extra charge for this. This applies to both partner organisations and to private instrumental and vocal teachers.

For more information please contact

admin@berkshiremaestros.org.uk.

Berkshire Music Hub Conference for Music Educators

Berkshire Music Hub, along with partner organisations University of Reading and Oxfordshire County Music Service, is hosting a fantastic summer conference for music teachers/co-ordinators. The keynote speaker will be Dr Martin Fautley and the whole day is focussed on the topic of developing the child as a musician. It is a great networking opportunity with schools from Berkshire, Oxfordshire and beyond. Book early as this looks like a very exciting and engaging day.

For full information please see our website [here](#).

Royal Albert Hall Celebration Concert

Sunday **1 May** 2016 will see the next extravaganza concert at the Royal Albert Hall. We have been inundated with individuals and groups wishing to participate. This year we have decided to use the BBC *Ten Pieces* project as focus for the event and in this we are supported by hub partners the BBC Concert Orchestra who will work with Berkshire Youth Concert Orchestra to perform *The Ride of the Valkyries* and *Mambo* from *West Side Story*.

There will also be a massed choir made up of secondary schools from across Berkshire who will perform a selection of choral classics across the ages and again perform one of the BBC Ten Pieces: Verdi's *Dies Irae* as well as a combined Primary Choir from schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Hub partners Culture Mix will feature in the first half as will Berkshire Youth Guitar Orchestra.

Tickets are on sale via the [Albert Hall box office website](#). Please note, boxes and seats in boxes are on sale via the [Maestros website](#), but please be aware the boxes and stall

seats are selling very fast. We do recommend that you encourage parents to buy sooner rather than later.

Music Production Holiday Courses

Places are still available on the next Hub **Music Production** course during the Easter holidays. Please contact dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk for further details or to enrol, see our website [here](#).



BERKSHIRE Maestros
THE YOUNG MUSICIANS TRUST

@ Kennet School
Stoney Lane,
Thatcham,
RG19 4LL

WINTER 2015
Sun - Wed
20 - 23 Dec

SPRING 2016
Tue - Fri
29 Mar -
1 Apr

SUMMER 2016
Tue - Fri
26 - 29 Jul

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COURSE LEADER : CRAIG TUTTON
Drawing from his extensive contemporary background Craig's modern courses help to guide students into the new digital age of music. Before joining Maestros in 2010 Craig worked as a touring drummer performing at major venues and festivals across the UK and Europe. Throughout his professional career he has worked with many top producers gaining a wealth of experience in the art of recording, mixing and producing.



Events to watch out for!

Finals of the county **Brass and Wind Competition** will take place at Windsor Guildhall on Sunday 13 March at 2pm and promise to be a not-to-be-missed display of virtuosity.

Three **Junior Music Festivals** in West Berkshire - preparations are starting to sound very exciting – book your tickets now for the Anvil 14 - 16 March.

The **Bracknell Forest JMF Along Came Man** will take place at Bracknell Leisure Centre on 20 March at 5pm and 7pm.

Easter Courses for wind, brass, string and percussion players will take place at Leighton Park School on 23 - 24 March. All details on [Maestros website](#).

The **AGM for Berkshire Maestros** will take place at **St Bartholomew's School, Newbury** at 10am on **Saturday 12 March** – all welcome.

All of our hub partners are welcome to send us content for this quarterly newsletter to share with our partner organisations. We will aim to feature different partners between newsletters

so that everyone gets their turn. Please send any content for the Summer update to lynneellis@berkshiremaestros.org.uk.

Lynne Ellis, CEO



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