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The latest newsletter from Berkshire Music Hub

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Berkshire Music Hub Newsletter December 2016

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Welcome

As this busy Christmas term draws to a close we have seen a vast number of wonderful festive performances. I would, on behalf of all staff at Berkshire Maestros, like to thank all our parents, schools and Hub partners for your support and contributions to the many events that have taken place. Your help is invaluable and enables us to continue delivering our lessons, rehearsals and concerts throughout the term. We are privileged to work alongside a number of local talented musicians and organisations and our work with the wider community continues to grow, much to our delight.

Going forward, we have many plans for developing our service to you, our children and our community and we look forward to sharing these in the new year. Meanwhile, on behalf of colleagues within Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music



Lynne Ellis
CEO

Dates for your diary:

7 January

[Oboe Masterclass and Workshop](#)

21 January

[Bracknell Music Centre: Piano Platform Concert](#)

28 January

[Newbury Music Centre: Chamber Concert](#)

3-7 February

[Big Play Days](#)

13-15 February

[Guitar Construction Course](#)

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

Berkshire Maestros in the news:

Newbury Today, 16 December

[£185,000 music bursary boost for Berkshire Maestros](#)

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Lynne Ellis

Chief Executive Officer

Arts Council praise for Berkshire Music Hub

Great News! Arts Council England has praised the Berkshire Music Education Hub on another strong year of performance with a very positive annual feedback letter. Strengths outlined include:

- Excellent school engagement at 98% across both primary and secondary schools.
- Commitment to quality assurance through observation of hub partner activity with 94% of all observed sessions deemed good or better
- A significant rise of pupils from a range of backgrounds being identified as exceptionally talented and being given the opportunity to experience world class performing opportunities
- Partnership working remains strong, including sustained relationships with voluntary organisations and genuine partnerships with music and education sector organisations
- Continued great work in developing Early Years provision through bespoke Pantomimus and Mini Maestros programmes.
- Quality music learning opportunities provided to secondary schools through the Hub's innovative Learn it Live programme, with plans to expand further to include Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils
- A commitment to making provision as accessible as possible by adapting and tailoring provision based on regular needs' analysis
- Significant developments in digital practice, especially through Maestros' contemporary programme – Soundstage
- Strong governance and delivery against core and extension roles

[Current vacancies](#)[Lessons in schools](#)[Term dates](#)[Schools](#)[Schools Forum](#)

Recent photos:



Acer Minor with their new bassoon harnesses



#LearnitLive workshop



#BYSO concert at St Mary's Church in Slough



The massed choirs of Berkshire County Youth Choirs #BYC, #BYV and #BCC at their concert at Bulmershe Auditorium



Special visit from Norwegian double reed players and their

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young people, our staff, schools, parents and partners. Now that Arts Council England has confirmed hub funding for the next four years, we look forward to further developing these areas as well as improving and expanding our provision to continue providing the best possible musical service and support to you all.

Government Hub Funding Announcement

On 18 November 2016, the government announced that funding for Music Hubs would be continued until 2020. You can read the full press release from the government [here](#).



Pantomimus

Inspire Music (Paul Hamlyn Foundation) has launched their new portal with a case study of our Early Years programme *Pantomimus* described as an example of 'good practice'. The launch of their portal happened in a presentation at the NAME Conference 2016 in November and is now live online. Professor Graham Welch (Institute of Education, London) and Catherine Zeserson (Director of Paul Hamlyn Foundation) chose our *Pantomimus* project as one of two example case studies in their opening presentation and showed it in full to the audience. The study was led and produced by Dr Jessica Pitt. Read more about the case study online at inspire-music.org. The Early Years department with Margareta Burrell, Bryn Bowen and Katie Minien continue to deliver the *Pantomimus* programme across 22 infant departments and nurseries in Berkshire and hope to expand during 2017!



First Performance of Berkshire Children's Choir

On Sunday 13 November Berkshire County Youth Choirs (BCYC) launched a new addition to the BCYC family - Berkshire Children's Choir. Berkshire Children's Choir is the most junior choir of the BCYC set up and is for children in school years 4–6. Having run a number of primary school



Reading #JMF at The Hexagon



Clifton Band performing at Newbury Music Centre's sold out Winter Concert



The Band of the Household Cavalry visit to Newbury Music Centre



Soundstage Rock Into Christmas at Readipop Studios



Wokingham Carol Concert

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choir to sit below Berkshire Young Voices. The choir debuted alongside BYV and BYC at the Bulmershe Auditorium. To listen to a short audio clip of the massed choirs of BCYC singing together please click [here](#).

To find out more about Berkshire Children's Choir (or the other BCYC choirs) please see our [website](#) or e-mail Siobhan using voice@berkshiremaestros.org.uk.



Newbury Adult Choir

New Music Centre at The Bulmershe School

During November one of our Wokingham satellite music centres relocated to The Bulmershe School in Woodley. Our activities here will benefit from access to a good quality auditorium as well as teaching rooms. To find out more about the centre at The Bulmershe School please see our [music centre webpage](#).



Buy a Programme

If you missed buying a programme at any of our larger concerts and events we have now made them available to order online to be posted out to you. Go to our [Pay Online](#) webpage to see which programmes we have spare copies available to order.

Job Vacancies

Lead Administrator, Tilehurst

We are looking to recruit a confident communicator and administrator, highly flexible, adaptable and committed to demonstrate both their initiative and proactive approach,

of musical instruments and facilities, dealing with customer enquiries at reception and other administrative duties. The position is full-time 37.5 hours per week (not term-time only), arranged flexibly to accommodate the demands of the room hire calendar across a core of office hours to be available to customers.

For full details please see the job listed on our [vacancies webpage](#).

Music Centre Manager, Windsor

A rare opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and high calibre individual to manage Berkshire Maestros Windsor Music Centre. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day management, administration and promotion of the centre which facilitates instrumental and vocal lessons, ensembles, concerts and touring opportunities for over two thousand children and young people in the Windsor, Maidenhead and Ascot area. The Music Centre Manager will liaise closely with teaching colleagues and Senior Leaders to actively promote the work of Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Hub within the wider community and be proactive in driving change to meet the needs of young musicians locally. The position is largely term-time, based on the Maestros' annual calendar and averages 43 hours per week.

For full details please see the job listed on our [vacancies webpage](#).

Focus on.... Newbury Music Centre

It has been a very busy couple of weeks at Newbury Music Centre starting on Saturday 26 November with our sell out Winter Concert. On Saturday 3 December we were delighted to have members of The Band of the Household Cavalry at the centre to work with students in Corelli Strings and Concert Band. As well as this we had informal performances by our junior groups and our Mini Maestros/Children's choir Christmas performance. We also held a 'Christmas Jumper Day' to raise funds for Save the Children and I am pleased to say we raised

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choir Newbury Youth Choir performed alongside Wantage Silver Band at The Beacon Wantage.

For photos and video of Concert Band's performance of *Sleigh Ride*, please do visit the [Newbury Music Centre Facebook page](#).

Thank you to the staff, PFA, parents and friends for all their support at these events and we would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Guitar Construction Course



We are offering a fun opportunity to construct and personalise your very own electric guitar under the watchful eye of Master Luthier Andrew Lines on a specialist three day course for February half term.

Find out more from our [website](#).

Readipop Urban Orchestra

News from Hub partner Readipop:

Urban Orchestra is open to all musicians under 25 from all styles of music. Join us to create some amazing new and original music and perform it live.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – READING

Saturday 21 January, 11am-4pm: Workshop - Readipop Studios

Sunday 22 January, 11am-4pm: Workshop - Readipop

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Studios

Sunday 29 January, 11am-4pm: Rehearsal - Readipop

Studios

Friday 3 February, 4-10pm: Performance at 7.30pm - South Street

JOIN FREE and see the Urban Orchestra

in action at www.readipop.co.uk

Future Talent Bursaries

Future Talent supports gifted young musicians from low income backgrounds from anywhere in the UK. This is typically families who have a household income of around £30,000 per year, or less, before tax (incl. benefits). Any young musicians on free school dinners would be eligible for one of their bursaries. Bursaries of up to £2,000 per year can be used on anything that will help nurture a young musician's talent. For example, funds can be used for lessons, a new instrument or case, courses or instrument maintenance.

The Charity is now accepting applications for a 2017/18 Bursary. The closing date is **Monday 16 January 2017**. To find out more see their flyer [here](#) or go to their website [here](#).

#BerkshireLovesMusic

As the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Hub, we are keen to promote concerts that are being put on by local music organisations through our social media, using the hashtag #BerkshireLovesMusic. If you are involved in any Berkshire based music organisation and you would like us to promote your activities on our social media then please e-mail the details to marketing@berkshiremaestros.org.uk, including a weblink or attached flyer with further details.

If you are interested in finding out what concerts are taking place across Berkshire that we are helping to promote then please search for the hashtag #BerkshireLovesMusic on Facebook or Twitter.

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