



## News Release (for immediate publication)

9 March 2017

### **Title: Berkshire Music Hub provides innovative musical support to primary schools in Berkshire**

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Berkshire Music Education Hub, led by music education charity Berkshire Maestros, has teamed up with Brighton based digital music education specialists, [Charanga](#), to provide every primary school in Berkshire Music Education Hub area with their award winning software, *Musical School*, free of charge.

Charanga's *Musical School* brings together great music, modern pedagogy and the latest educational technology to support all aspects of music in schools. It includes a complete scheme of work, a comprehensive library of resources, a substantial song centre, topic related learning, instrumental courses as well as their innovative *Music-World*: a safe online space for children to continue their music making outside of the classroom.

*Musical School* will benefit primary school children by enabling them to more effectively engage in learning about music by making it fun and interesting.

Steve Christmas, Director of Strategic Hub Development at Berkshire Maestros, said: "*In the current climate of funding challenges for schools, this is a positive step by the Hub to help support and enhance music education in primary schools throughout Berkshire and, using government grants, will benefit the pupils directly. It is well evidenced that music has a very positive impact on the development and academic progress of the whole child but many schools have limited or scarce resources to really embrace music completely. This is where the Hub can help and why this partnership with Charanga has been created.*"

Alongside providing *Musical School*, there will be a comprehensive training programme to support teachers with using the technology as well as creating a network of support through 'Charanga Champions.'

*Musical School* will be launched in Berkshire at a special event held at the Odeon cinema in Bracknell on Wednesday 22 March 2017. Schools who attend will be able



to sign up for their free license after the event. Schools can register their attendance at the launch by visiting [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/charangalaunch](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/charangalaunch).

**Ends**

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Hub**

- Berkshire Maestros is a charitable trust providing music education opportunities to children and young people in Berkshire. Established in 1982 as the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust, it rebranded as Berkshire Maestros in 2006 and is the lead provider of music tuition in schools and music centres in Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Wokingham Borough unitary authorities.
- Berkshire Maestros is the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Education Hub. Through our passion for music making, creativity, expertise and excellence, we aim to deliver the highest quality musical education to meet the aspirations and needs of every child, young musician, school and music leader in Berkshire. We aim to inspire and empower our young musicians and create life-enhancing, enjoyable and sustainable musical opportunities through providing first access and coherent, progressive pathways and enable our community to achieve their potential, develop and celebrate through music.
- Berkshire Music Hub offers a full and diverse range of group music-making opportunities through six area music centres in Reading, Newbury, Bracknell, Windsor, Hungerford and Wokingham.
- To download any logos for Berkshire Maestros or the Berkshire Music Hub please go to [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/press.html](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/press.html)
- If you would like more information, please contact Vanessa Harbutt (Marketing Officer) on 0118 901 2357, or email [press@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:press@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)