

11<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## **Berkshire Maestros wins a donation from the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund!**

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Berkshire Maestros is delighted to announce that the bid submitted to the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund in December has been successful and we will be the happy recipients of £300.00. We won the people's choice element of the awards meaning that in the first week that we submitted the bid, more people voted for us than for any other project!

Lynne Ellis, Berkshire Maestros CEO, said *"We are so pleased to receive this money from Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund. Every donation is always much appreciated and we are very grateful to MARS for their contribution."*

Berkshire Maestros will be spending the donation on buying some three-quarter sized violins so that some of our younger learners who want to play the violin will have an instrument available to them

Vanessa Harbutt, Marketing and Fundraising Officer for Berkshire Maestros, added: *"Sometimes the only barrier to young people choosing to give music a try is being able to get their hands on an instrument. We provide a wide range of instruments that can be loaned from us to enable them to give music a go. Learning to play an instrument has wider benefits for a child's education because mastering the skill enhances their cognitive development, so it supports an improvement in their general education also. This donation from the GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund means that we can now purchase smaller sized violins so more youngsters can begin their lessons."*

Michelle Frost, spokeswoman for GALAXY Hot Chocolate said: *"We know that across the UK and Ireland smaller charities and community groups are struggling to make ends meet despite the efforts of a huge number of warm-hearted volunteers. The GALAXY Hot*

# News release

*Chocolate Fund aims to give them a helping hand and hopefully inspire more people to get involved."*

One parent commented on social media that it was "good to know that others would be able to" hire additional three-quarter sized violins as all of Maestros existing three-quarter sized violins had been rented out to other children when she had been hoping to hire one.



Stoneham Strings members with their teacher Ana Borzone

**Ends**

## ***Notes to Editors***

### ***Berkshire Maestros***

- 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 provider of music tuition in schools and music centres for Bracknell Forest, Reading, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Wokingham Unitary Authorities.
- We run hundreds of bands, choirs and orchestras to allow children to build on their lesson experience. These take place at our music centres based in Bracknell, Wokingham, Newbury, Reading and Windsor
- If you would like more information, please contact Vanessa Harbutt, Marketing Officer on 0118 901 2357, or email [vanessaharbutt@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:vanessaharbutt@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)