



## News Release (for immediate publication)

**Date:** 12 October 2016

### **Title: Berkshire Young Musician of the Year String Competition 2017 is now open**

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The annual Berkshire Young Musician of the Year competition for 2017 has been launched and this year it is open to musicians who play stringed instruments. This prestigious competition is organised by Berkshire Maestros in partnership with Windsor Festival International String Competition and Philip Brown Violins, and showcases the skills of some of the most talented instrumentalists in the county.

Jonathan Burnett, Head of Strings for Berkshire Maestros, said:

*“Berkshire Young Musician of the Year allows children from all backgrounds and standards to take part in a multi-dimensional competition. From uploading videos online to the final at The Guildhall in Windsor and receiving prizes in the Waterloo Chamber in Windsor Castle, last time presented by HRH The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO, – this is a unique opportunity to take part in one of the most forward thinking competitions in the country.”*

The competition is open to instrumentalists who play violin, viola, ‘cello and double bass, and entrants need to be under 20 years old on the day of the final on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2017. There are multiple categories for aged 9 and under, 10-12 years, 13-15 years and 16-19 years old. Comprising three rounds, finalists will get to perform on stage at the Guildhall in Windsor.

Martin Denny, Festival Director of Windsor Festival, said:

*“I am delighted that Windsor Festival continues to work closely with Berkshire Maestros, and is involved in this competition which is of such great value for the development of young musicians in the county. Running alongside our International String Competition we aim to inspire and encourage, and to add to the excellent support Maestros already provides with enhanced opportunities.”*

Sean Law, Lead String Teacher for Berkshire Maestros, added:

*“This is a fantastic chance for young string players from Berkshire. We are excited to launch our new website which has facilitated the video entry system and will open up the competition to an even wider range of students across the county.”*

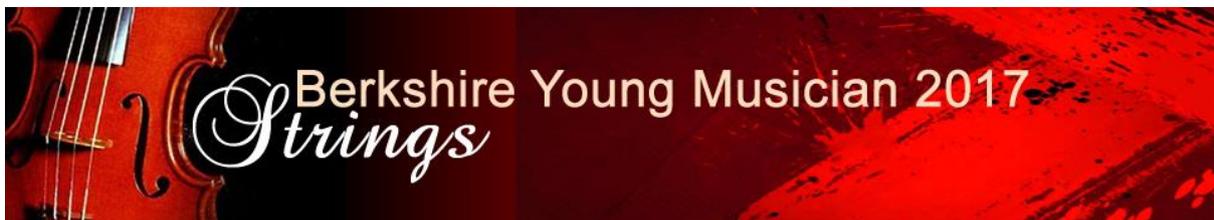


Each year the Berkshire Young Musician competition focuses on a different group of instruments, including voice. Last year the focus was on woodwind and brass players, and the competition was won by 17 year old flautist Fiona Martin. She said:

*“Achieving such an award has given me confidence to pursue performance further.”*

Young instrumentalists who are keen to follow in her footsteps can enter online at

<http://berkshireyoungmusician.com/>.



Windsor Festival

## Ends

### **Notes to Editors**

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

- Berkshire Maestros is the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Hub. The Hub receives Arts Council England funding to co-ordinate and lead musical activities across West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell, Maidenhead, Windsor and Slough.
- 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.
- The Music Hub offers hundreds of bands, choirs and orchestras to allow children to build on their lesson experience. Many of these take place at our music centres based in Bracknell, Wokingham, Newbury, Reading and Windsor
- To download any logos from 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)