



News Release (for immediate publication)

Date: 14th February 2017

Title: Berkshire Maestros and Windsor Festival partnership for Windsor Festival International String Competition and Berkshire Young Musician of the Year

[Berkshire Maestros](#), the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Hub, is delighted to once again be working in association with [Windsor Festival](#). The culmination of this year's partnership will take place with the closing concert of [Windsor Festival International String Competition](#). The collaboration provides the opportunity for young musicians and singers of Berkshire to perform alongside internationally renowned soloists. [Berkshire County Youth Choirs](#) have been working with gifted and talented students from the Windsor Learning Partnership and Newlands Girls School in preparation for the performance of John Rutter's *Magnificat*. This will be accompanied by Berkshire Maestros flagship string ensemble Camerata and the soloist is the acclaimed [Mary Bevan](#) who was once a member of Berkshire Youth Choir herself.

Louise McGahon, Head of Voice at Berkshire Maestros, said *"I am very grateful to Windsor Festival for creating this unique opportunity to enable the singers of Berkshire Youth Choir and the gifted and talented musicians from schools in the community to come together to perform at this prestigious venue. I am thrilled to welcome Berkshire Youth Choir alumna Mary Bevan back to perform with the choir that she herself was a member of during her teenage years. An outstanding vocalist with a dazzling career to date, she is a true inspiration for all the young people who will hear her this evening."*

The first half of the programme will feature a rare opportunity to hear soloists [Timothy Ridout](#) and [Benjamin Baker](#) perform Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* for violin and viola. The first half will also see Camerata perform Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* with [The Continental Quartet](#) from Birmingham Conservatoire. This inspiring partnership concert will take place on



Saturday 18th March at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle at 7:30; tickets can be obtained from Windsor Festival www.windsorfestival.com.

The final of the Berkshire Young Musician of the Year competition, which is another strand to the strong partnership between Windsor Festival and Berkshire Maestros, is set to be an exhilarating conclusion to a popular and a closely contested event. Tickets for the final, at Windsor Guildhall on Sunday 12th March, are available from Windsor Festival www.windsorfestival.com.

Martin Denny, Director of Windsor Festival, said that *"Berkshire Maestros has had a long-standing relationship with Windsor Festival, their young performers appearing in a variety of Festival concerts for many years. More recently, the biennial Windsor Festival International String Competition (WFISC), a competition for string players from around the world aged 16 to 26 years, has facilitated a further link with the establishment of the Berkshire Young Musician of the Year competition. Winners will be presented with their prizes by HRH The Earl of Wessex, Patron of Windsor Festival, at the Final of WFISC in the Waterloo Chamber, Windsor Castle."*

Sean Law, Lead Teacher of Strings for Berkshire Maestros, said that *"Our partnership with Windsor Festival grows increasingly stronger and continues to facilitate some extremely high quality music-making. I look forward to experiencing first-hand the culmination of months of hard work by a wide variety of students in both the competition final and the concert in St George's Chapel."*

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
- If you would like more information, please contact Vanessa Harbutt (Marketing Officer) on 0118 901 2357, or email press@berkshiremaestros.org.uk