

## Media Release

**20 March 2019**

**for immediate release**

### **Berkshire Young Musician of the Year 2019**

*Local music education charity, Berkshire Maestros, in partnership with Windsor Festival, is delighted to announce the winners of Berkshire Young Musician of the Year 2019.*

The competition is open to young musicians from across Berkshire and provides an opportunity for them to showcase their talents alongside others in their age group.

Entrants competed across three rounds, with the final taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at The Old Court, Windsor. Winners in each of the four categories and the overall winner were selected following the final on Sunday evening.

#### **Junior Category: 9 and under**

##### **Winner: Alice Zhou**

Alice is seven years old and she is a pupil in year three at the **Abbey Junior School**.

She started learning violin at Berkshire Maestros with Jonathan Burnett at the age of five and she is currently a member of Prospect Strings orchestra.

#### **Junior Category: 10-12**

##### **Winner: Renee Wong**

Renee is 12 years old; she began learning violin at the age of four in Dulwich College Suzhou. Since Renee's return to Hong Kong in 2013, she has joined Yip's Children's Choral and the Performing Arts Centre under Mr Calvin Wong's supervision. Renee moved to the UK in 2018 and currently studies at **Downe House School**, where she learns violin with Mr John Kane.

Renee enjoys being a part of orchestras - she plays 1st violin in her school's Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Renee is also a member of the school choir.

Renee has a passion for classical ballet as well as violin - it is another way that she expresses herself with music and body movement.

### **Senior Category: 13-15**

#### **Winner: Andrea Lam Kwan Wai**

Andrea started learning the violin at the age of 6, gaining her DipABRSM at the age of 10 and LRSM at 13. In 2016 and 2017, Andrea received a scholarship for the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, studying with the Head of Strings. She is now a music scholar at **Wellington College** studying with Susanne Henwood and Professor David Takeno privately. Andrea has won many competitions and received several awards both in Hong Kong and around Europe.

In 2017-2018, Andrea made her debut with the China Hong Kong Youth Symphony Orchestra in Hong Kong City Hall playing Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, Mozart Violin Concerto No.5 and Introduction & Rondo Capriccioso by Saint-Saens. She was also Concertmaster in the Junior Repertoire Ensemble in HKAPA.

In 2017 Andrea was awarded 2017 Musician of the Year in the German Swiss International School and also received the Sir Robert Black Trust fund for talented students in 2016.

### **Senior Category: 16-18**

#### **Winner: Maya Fear**

Maya has been playing violin for 10 years, and discovered her love for playing whilst learning under her first teacher, Simone Scheiber. She now studies at Berkshire Maestros with Jonathan Burnett, where she is currently preparing for a diploma.

Maya, a pupil at **Kendrick School** in Reading, enjoys playing in ensembles, such as Camerata and the Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra, of which she is leader.

At home, Maya likes to play duets with her sister and plays other instruments including piano and electric bass.

Maya is keen to continue her violin studies and intends to study music at university.

#### **Overall Winner and Berkshire Young Musician of the Year: Maya Fear (Violin)**

Director of Windsor Festival, Martin Denny commented;

'Windsor Festival is delighted to be working with Berkshire Maestros on the Berkshire Young Musician of the Year. The Young Musician of the Year was created to promote music-making amongst students from the local area in parallel with Windsor Festival International String Competition. Both competitions aim to encourage and inspire, and to build performing experience and to give the students an audience. We have been extremely impressed with the standard of this year's entries. Congratulations to all the finalists and especially the winners.'

Jonathan Burnett, Head of Strings at Berkshire Maestros added;

'Berkshire Maestros is committed to offering musical opportunities to young people across Berkshire and delighted to be part of the Berkshire Young Musician of the Year competition. The standard of performance and musicianship demonstrated throughout the competition has been extremely impressive and bodes well for the future of music in Berkshire! Thank you to all who took part in all three rounds of the competition and congratulations to all our finalists and winners.'

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### **Note for Editors:**

#### **Berkshire Maestros:**

Berkshire Maestros is a long-established children's charity offering musical education opportunities to children across Berkshire, regardless of ability, background or circumstance. We work closely with schools across the county to allow all children access to music and the opportunity to play an instrument. Through our seven music centres, we offer children of all ages the chance to sing, play instruments and enhance their life-skills through music.

Our choirs, orchestras and ensembles perform at prestigious venues across the county and beyond – helping the children to develop their team-working and communications skills as well as building their confidence.

Headquartered in Reading, the organisation has centres in Bracknell, Newbury, Windsor and Wokingham as well as satellites in Caversham and Hungerford. Further expansion is planned for the coming year.

#### **Windsor Festival**

Windsor Festival was founded in 1969 with Yehudi Menuhin and Ian Hunter as Artistic Directors and Laurence West as Executive Chairman. The original idea for the Festival was put forward by Robin Woods (Dean of Windsor) in 1968 based around the participation of the Menuhin Festival Orchestra with Yehudi Menuhin using St George's Chapel, the State Apartments of Windsor Castle and the Theatre Royal. The Dean decided to form the Windsor Festival Society, which then moved to plan the first Festival. Since that time the Festival has continued to attract distinguished artists from around the world.

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