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Autumn newsletter from Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Education Hub

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Autumn newsletter 2016 issue 3

Welcome from Helen Robertson

I write to you as the new Director of Educational Development for Berkshire Maestros. Having had a career as a professional musician and, more recently, as a Head of Music in West Berkshire, I am looking forward to leading the high quality teaching and learning of our talented young musicians. I encourage you to come along to the many excellent concerts and workshops that we hold in addition to our regular music centre ensembles, details of which can be found in this newsletter and on the Berkshire Maestros [website](#).



Helen Robertson, Director of Educational Development

County groups tour to China in July



A large cohort of over 150 young musicians from our county groups completed a hugely successful concert tour to China during July. Members of Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra, Berkshire Youth Choir and Berkshire Youth Guitar Orchestra visited China for nine days at the end of July 2016, performing concerts in Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai to capacity audiences. The students, all aged between 14 and 19, performed their concerts exceptionally well and received huge applause from the Chinese audiences. They also enjoyed trips to the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Other highlights included a #BYC flashmob in a market street. Read Newbury Today's article on the China tour [here](#).

Dates for your diary:

29 September

[Twilight Training: Introduction](#)

15 October

[Newbury Music Centre: Platform Concert](#)

24 October

[BYSO Concert](#)

4 November

Closing date to register your entry for [Berkshire Young Musician String Competition](#)

13 November

[Berkshire County Choirs concert](#)

14-15 November

[Reading Junior Music Festival](#)

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Korsakov's *Sheherezade* and Ginastera's *Estancia Dances*.

You can buy tickets online through our [website](#).

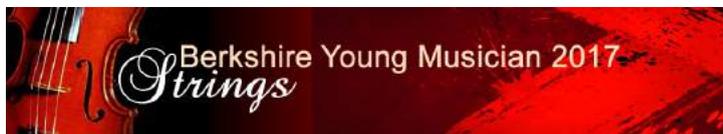
Thank you to Chris Prowse for the photographs.

Berkshire Youth Choir at the Proms

On Friday 9 September, 23 members of #BYC sang Verdi's Requiem as part of the Proms Youth Choir at the penultimate night of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. This was a fantastic opportunity for these singers to perform at this prestigious concert under the baton of Marin Alsop. The singers spent several days rehearsing at the University of Birmingham and received some impressive compliments regarding their abilities! The concert was broadcast live on BBC4; if you would like to watch it again, please go to [BBC iPlayer](#) before 9 October.

Berkshire Youth Choir will perform their first concert of the year alongside Berkshire Young Voices and the newly created Berkshire Children's Choir on Saturday 13 November at 5pm in Bulmershe Auditorium. They will be performing a range of repertoire that is both sacred and secular. To buy tickets please go to our website [here](#).

Berkshire Young Musician of the Year String competition



In partnership with [Windsor Festival](#), Berkshire Young Musician of the Year String Competition is open to:

- All students aged 18 or under on 31 August 2017
- A resident of Berkshire or studying in a Berkshire school, or being taught by a Berkshire Maestros teacher.

There are four age categories (under 9, 10-12, 13-15 and 16-19); entrants must apply by Friday 4 November. For full details and information on how to apply please see the competition [website](#).

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Recent photos:



#BYSO on-stage in Shanghai



Some members of #BYC on the Great Wall of China



The Proms Youth Choir, featuring 23 members of #BYC, at the end of the penultimate night of the Proms concert

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now available on our new [Schools Forum](#) page of the website.

Find out about:

- Twilight training opportunities for EYFS, KS1 and SEND teachers
- Music grade exams count towards Attainment 8 and Progress 8
- Updated pupil premium procedures for relevant students who have instrumental lessons
- Check the new specifications for GCSE, AS level and A level Music qualifications
- Music Mark's useful leaflet *10 things schools should know about learning music*

News from our partner organisations

Windsor Festival 18 September – 2 October

[Windsor Festival](#) aspires to be amongst the premier Music and Arts Festivals in the UK, playing an important part in the cultural life of the community. This year's line-up will include some of the world's finest musicians and the festival will celebrate the anniversary of Yehudi Menuhin's birth, the Queen's 90th birthday and Shakespeare's 400th anniversary. Windsor Festival has extended a special offer to Maestros students for their concerts [Centenary of Yehudi Menuhin](#) (27 Sept) and [Federico Colli with the Philharmonia Orchestra](#) (30 Sept). Four tickets are free when the parent or guardian pays for a ticket. The code to enter online in the voucher code field, or over the phone, is **Maestros**.

#BerkshireLovesMusic



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