



Update for schools – May 2015

Classroom Heroes – towards an inspiring music curriculum in schools **Music Hub Annual Conference Friday 26 June**

Once again we are delighted that Hub partners, the University of Reading, will be hosting this year's Berkshire Music Hub conference. The event brings together those responsible for music education in their schools with other music teachers and key experts. The overall theme will be 'Classroom Heroes' – hopefully this will whet your appetite. To find out more look out for our flyer or express an interest with dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk. During the day we are having separate strands for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and for secondary with choices within each. As well as external experts, we will be sharing some of the best practice here in the County – hence Classroom Heroes. Great news, charges have been frozen at last year's level, just £75 per delegate and ... there will be enough food for everyone.

Sad news

It is with a heavy heart that we let you know of the death of Katy Jones, the executive producer and brains behind the BBC Ten Pieces initiative. The impact of her work in primary schools this last year has been impressive. I am assured by the BBC that the Ten Pieces programme will continue but in the Berkshire Music Hub we will miss her enthusiasm and dynamism enormously.

Early Years Music - a seminar day "harnessing the power of Early Years in your music hub"

Mini Maestros is really flourishing at our music centres and the new Pantomimus initiative in nurseries and children's centres is hugely popular and attracting national funding, enabling under 5s to engage with musical activity. The national network for EY music, MERYC, is keen to explore how Music Hubs support such work so Maestros is hosting their next event: 23 May 2015 • 10am-4pm • £10.50 • Lunch included

Please see www.meryc.co.uk for details and book through <http://tinyurl.com/merycuk2015>

Forthcoming events for primary and secondary school music leaders

The Bracknell Forest music subject leaders meeting takes place on Tuesday 19 May from 4pm at Easthampstead Park Conference centre. The next West Berkshire secondary music meeting will be at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury on Tuesday 9 June from 2pm. Wokingham primary subject leaders meet at the Keep Hatch IT Centre on Wednesday 10 June from 4pm. The next Royal Borough secondary and middle school music meeting is on Wednesday 24 June at Charters School, Ascot from 2pm.

Flamenco Workshop

We are delighted to announce that world renowned flamenco guitarist Rafael will be working with any advanced guitarists (grade 6 and above) on Sunday 17 May at the Reading Music Centre, Stoneham Court. Any advanced guitarist can attend not just students of Berkshire Maestros. There is a notional charge of £20 per place. Further details: amywhitaker@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

A slight change of plan

Thank you to those who have already booked spaces for the big sing at the Royal Albert Hall 2016. Yes we are aware that it is Sunday 1 May, the bank holiday weekend but we had no choice.

Now that the BBC has announced the 10 Pieces secondary programme, we have decided to move away from highlights from Handel's Messiah. The second half of the concert will be Choral Masterpieces – a selection of the great choral classics from across the ages. We will still include the Hallelujah Chorus but we can now include Dies Irae from Verdi Requiem and Zadok the Priest both Ten Pieces selections. Also on the programme will be the Toreador's Chorus from Bizet's opera Carmen, Verdi's Anvil Chorus and Puccini's Humming Chorus and some other surprises. We are delighted to announce that Ben Parry, the Director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain has agreed to conduct the second half. We are already hugely excited by the possibilities. There are still a few more slots available for schools. Please register your interest by emailing alberthall@berkshiremaestros.org.uk. If you can, please indicate separately the likely numbers of boys and of girls that would participate.

West Berkshire primary music concert

Many thanks to all of those West Berkshire primary schools that have already enrolled for either of the free concerts led by Southern Sinfonia to take place at the Brockhurst and Marlsdon school on Thursday 18 June. It is still not too late to book a place but sadly only West Berkshire primary schools can apply as it is funded by the Greenham Common Trust.

Noisy Kids

Saturday 23 May, 11-30 to 12-45 at the Hexagon, Music Hub partners the RPO present their annual children's concert. Tickets are available from the Hexagon Box Office. There is even a family ticket for just £27. The concert is titled: Magic and Mystery and features music ranging from Harry Potter to Danse Macabre. Please draw this to the attention of interested children. It promises once again to be an outstanding event.

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**