



Update for schools – November 2014

Ten Pieces

We are aware that some primary schools lack the subject expertise in music education to develop the Ten Pieces project further. We are making available a number of subsidised workshops in which a primary music specialist will visit your school to work with a class of your choice to develop a composition based on one of the Ten Pieces. For further information contact naomihinton@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Spotlight on the New Mozart Orchestra (NMO)

As a hub partner, the NMO is always keen to present its outreach activities in the county, particularly its acclaimed Schools' Orchestral Concerts. In the last 15 years the NMO has performed nearly 200 such concerts to delighted audiences of children and staff. Berkshire schools most recently visited include Highwood, Caversham, Addington and The Hill.

The NMO organises a day of concerts once 50% of the day's total costs has been raised and a group of four nearby schools identified. Schools themselves can suggest sources for that 50% (such as local sponsorship, benefactors, charitable trust grants or other awards) with which the NMO will be happy to negotiate further. Thereafter each of the four schools contributes just 12.5% of the total cost of an orchestra for a day.

What we offer and how we provide it:

- A professional orchestral daytime concert in your own school hall
- 15-piece orchestra + conductor + presenter
- All sections of the orchestra represented
- 50-minute themed programme, both educational and entertaining

Performance Participation:

- Though not compulsory, we do encourage one item of collaboration
- *Either* by singing a song (we supply) associated with the theme
- *Or* your instrumentalists join us for a piece of their choice (you supply)
- All discussed and planned well in advanced with your music teacher

Educational outcomes:

- Experiencing live the world of orchestral music and instruments
- Learning how instruments produce sound and different tone colours
- Hearing several pieces in various styles by a variety of composers
- Helping children to identify the instruments they may be inspired to learn

Cultural and Entertaining:

- Enhancing the quality of the school's cultural life
- Demonstrating that music-making is both fun and enriching
- Showing how orchestral playing is an excellent example of teamwork
- Gaining insight into the enormous diversity of artistic endeavour

What it costs:

- £400 per school
- This is 50% of the actual cost of our fully professional orchestral performance
- Made possible by NMO first securing 50% funding from grants/awards
- Only achievable by NMO delivering 4 performances during the same day

The NMO's brochure can be downloaded from its website www.nmo.org.uk where details of all of its activities can be viewed, including comments from children and staff, and from where a YouTube video of its work can be streamed.

Contact the NMO via email nmotrust@aol.com or telephone 01494 520359

Learn it Live

Very grateful thanks to all who made the A level 'Learn it Live' Conference such a success. The event was held at Maestros HQ Stoneham Court, on 20 October in collaboration with Hub partners University of Reading and Kennet School. Over 150 AS and A2 pupils participated in interactive workshops based on three set works and a composing seminar working on sonata form with professional musicians from the Royal Academy of Music (RAM). There is likely to be a further day in the Spring Term (date TBC) as we were unable to accommodate all applicants. If you were unable to attend on this occasion but would like your pupils to attend the next event, please contact carolinewoodhouse@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

A GCSE focused 'Learn it Live' Conference is currently being planned and further information will follow in due course.

Forthcoming events for school subject leaders

- 12 November, Reading secondary music subject leaders meeting at Denefield at 2:30pm - 4.30pm. All secondary music colleagues from Reading and surrounding area welcome to attend. We will be discussing:
 - Music Tech A level

- Accurate assessment of AS and A2 music tech compositions – colleagues to bring examples of Summer compositions and marks/grades awarded
- Strategies/ideas for successful teaching of tech at KS4 in prep for A level
- Composition: Practical ways to start composition assignments – sharing of expertise.

Please confirm your attendance to lynneellis@berkshiremaestros.org.uk and contact us with any other item you would like to discuss.

The next Wokingham HODs network meeting will take place within the Federation Day on Monday **23 February**, details TBC and subsequently at Bulmershe School on **20 May** at **3.30pm**. Colleagues from Bracknell Secondary Schools are welcome to attend.

The RBWM Music secondary subject leaders' network meeting will take place at Furze Platt School on **14 January** at **2.30pm**.

The next West Berkshire secondary subject leaders' network meeting will take place on **11 February, 2pm** at St Barts School, Newbury.

Primary music subject leaders and teachers

Composition workshops for non-specialist (and specialist) musicians and class teachers responsible for the delivery of music based on typical KS2 topics (such as Romans, Vikings etc) are in the pipeline. Further information on dates and booking will be available soon from dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk If you have specific requests for a musical training workshop based on a specific theme please contact us Dawn Garside.

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