



## Update for schools – mid May 2015

### **What's on for secondary teachers at: Classroom Heroes – The Music Hub Annual Conference Friday 26 June**

We are so delighted that Sarah Perryman the officer responsible for developing the new AQA GCSE and A level qualifications will update delegates with all the news about the changes and is willing to answer questions about the new specifications. Similarly Edexcel is sending their development officer Nick Horton to present on their new A level specification. This is your chance to find out about the new proposals.

Other tantalising sessions for secondary music colleagues will include a glimpse into the minds of Year 9 pupils, exploring what motivates them musically; i-pads and free software in the secondary music classroom; fine tune a secondary choir; strategies for engaging the Key Stage 3 music learner and of course much more.

Finally delegates will be able to learn about the launch of the BBC Ten Pieces project for secondary schools. To book places contact [dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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### **What's on for primary and early years teachers at: Classroom Heroes – The Music Hub Annual Conference Friday 26 June**

Seminars and workshops for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 music range from an opportunity to witness the revolutionary Pantomimus project in action; Sue Nicholls returns by public demand leading sessions on Creative Composition for the terrified and separately, composition as part of the BBC Ten Pieces Primary initiative; Dr Rebecca Berkeley will lead on developing Musicianship in the primary classroom; Jacqui Kench will reveal how she inspires children to make music in a fun way whilst Gil Daniells reveals to delegates the astonishing way she develops rhythmic work with sticks. Finally by popular demand – Guitar Basics. To book a place at only £75 per delegate contact [dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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### **We are sorry to say goodbye**

Two of our most senior staff are retiring this Summer, Peter Hunt who has been an inspirational Deputy Head of Service and Colin Ming who has devoted so many years of outstanding commitment to Maestros as Head of Customer Administration. We would like to take this opportunity to place on record our most grateful thanks to both colleagues for all they have done for us and we wish them all the best in what we hope will be a long, happy and well deserved retirement.

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## **Forthcoming events for primary and secondary school music leaders**

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 2-30pm.

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## **National Festival of Music for Youth**

Congratulations to the Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra and their conductor Jonathan Burnett on winning through to the finals of the National Festival of Music for Youth to take place at Symphony Hall Birmingham on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July. This is an outstanding achievement.

You will have the opportunity to hear the orchestra in action at the Hexagon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. This will be a space themed concert and I would urge schools to encourage parents to take their children to hear what is a stunning orchestra plus a number of other musical surprises but hurry tickets will go very rapidly. Please follow the link from the front page of our website [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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## **New partnership with the Hexagon**

As part of our partnership agreement with the Hexagon Reading we are able to offer to parents of pupils learning to play a musical instrument with Maestros reduced price tickets to any of the Classical Music Alive (CMA) concerts at the Reading Hexagon for the coming season. However it cannot be for parents alone. It is for children and young people learning to play a musical instrument attending together with their parent(s).

PS don't forget Noisy Kids Saturday 23 May, 11-30 to 12-45. Tickets are available from 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. It promises once again to be an outstanding event.

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## **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. Spaces left for two more schools.

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## **Ten Pieces – stop press**

The cinema bookings for the secondary Ten Pieces screenings open 20<sup>th</sup> May. The free screenings take place in the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01vs08w>  
The primary film was superb and we expect the secondary one to be at least as good.

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