



## Update for schools – Autumn 2015

### Welcome back

We do hope you have all enjoyed a restful Summer break and that for secondary colleagues music examination results were better than you dared hope for. Don't forget the next Learn it Live event to support A level music is only a month away. Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1 till 5 at Stoneham Court, Reading.

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### Early Years, SEND and KS1 Music Twilight Training 2015/16

Wednesday Training Dates for your Diary:

30 September 2015 Session 1 Introduction to music in Early years settings

4 November 2015 Session 2 Growing musical understanding through movement

2 December 2015 Session 3 Singing in the Early Years

20 January 2016 Session 4 Musical instruments in Early Years settings

24 February 2016 Session 5 Music to enhance stories and themes, music for festivals and music for celebrations

16 March 2016 Session 6 Music as communication

Special offer for Music Hub schools and settings. Places can be booked at just £30 per session or £150 for all six.

To book places contact [dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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### Sad news

Our much loved colleague percussion teacher Graham Little sadly passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> August at the Basingstoke Hospital after a long illness. He was a courageous man who influenced and inspired so many young musicians. Our thoughts and best wishes are with his family. His funeral took place on 19<sup>th</sup> August and was an opportunity for musical and oral tributes.

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### West Berkshire Primary Schools

The next West Berkshire primary music meeting will be at St Bartholomew's School, Newbury on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October from 4pm. The main topic of conversation will be the Junior Music Festivals at the Anvil in March, also an update on the Greenham Common Music Bursary fund.

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

Congratulations to the Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra and their conductor Jonathan Burnett on being invited to perform at the Primary Prom at the Royal Albert Hall next month. This is an outstanding achievement and reflects the high esteem which the orchestra now commands.

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## **New partnership with the Hexagon**

As part of our music hub partnership agreement with the Hexagon Reading we continue to be 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).

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## **Junior Music Festivals**

Dates are now booked for the Hexagon in November and the Anvil for West Berkshire schools in March. If you would like to be involved in future Maestros led events please contact [naomihinton@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:naomihinton@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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## **Ten Pieces – stop press**

The cinema bookings for the secondary Ten Pieces screenings are open. The free screenings take place in the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3l2p7df6Yhg8dRp20Hp85VG/ten-pieces-secondary>

The primary film was superb and we expect the secondary one to be at least as good. Just have a look at the trailer – you will be sold.

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## **Composition lessons**

So many schools have asked us if we can support their A level and GCSE young composers. The answer now is yes. Composition lessons are now available every Wednesday at 5-20 till 6-20 from half term onwards with professional composer Gabrielle Ridgeon. The sessions will be organised as a sequence of short projects each culminating in a completed piece. We will ensure that sessions also support the wider understanding of music history and theory wherever possible. The first three projects are: 'compose a piece for solo instrument and piano'; 'compose a piece for string quartet' and 'compose a piece for brass and/or woodwind ensemble'. Places initially will be allocated following a selection process because we anticipate enormous demand. Interested students should submit a couple of examples of their work to Gabrielle. Please send for her attention at our Stoneham Court address. The cost is just £8.80 per session. Phenomenal value for money. Parents can enrol for this on line in the same way as instrumental tuition.

We will also hope to offer composition classes for primary age and younger secondary children. Interested parents should enrol on line.

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