**Update for schools – November 2015**

## It's change at the top

Congratulations to Lynne Ellis on her appointment as CEO of Berkshire Maestros. Lynne takes up her post on 1st January following Philip's retirement. Also new in post is our Head of Business Operations, Andrew Minns who joined us on 1st November. Andrew was previously Head of Finance with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

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## Minor changes to Maestros infrastructure

Following Nathan Cole's appointment to Maestros Head of Percussion, we have reorganised our Area Leader positions:
Ben Stevens covers the Royal Borough; James Baker Bracknell and Wokingham South of the M4 Hilary Smethurst Evans covers Reading and Wokingham Borough North of the M4 and Wendy Harvey West Berkshire. As from January Sam Wyne will cover West Berkshire as Wendy starts her maternity leave. We wish Wendy all the best.

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## Reserve the dates

It is looking very likely that the Music Hub will be hosting a live orchestral music concert with the RPO at the Hexagon on either 7th or 16th June 2016. It is likely to be three concerts all in one day so that as many primary and special schools as possible can attend. More in our next newsletter.

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## Royal Albert Hall

Preparations for the celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall on 1st May are well under way. Tickets went on sale on 1st November via the Albert Hall box office website. Boxes and seats in boxes are on sale via the Maestros website, but please be aware the boxes are selling fast.

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## National Festival of Music for Youth

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

**Ten Pieces Live Lesson for KS3/3rd Level**

**Thursday 26th November 2015 – 11.00 until c.11.35**

BBC Learning is hosting a special Ten Pieces Live Lesson from Media City UK with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra presented by CBBC's Naomi Wilkinson and Blur's Alex James.

Naomi and Alex will also be joined by very special guests; including four times world DJ champion Mr Switch and, from the Ten Pieces II film Lemn Sissay MBE, poet and Chancellor of Manchester University. The Live Lesson will focus on three of the Ten Pieces and aims to inspire students to develop their own creative responses to music through art, poetry and dance, whilst also highlighting key elements of the music curriculum.

The three pieces we are focusing on are:

'Toreador's Song' from Bizet's 'Carmen' – Creative response – Poetry

'Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra' by Gabriel Prokofiev – Creative response – Dance

Shostakovich's 'Symphony No. 10' – Creative response – Art

Live Lessons are streamed live from location to classrooms across the UK and are available to watch via the Live Lessons website. Students and teachers will be invited to get involved by emailing questions for our expert guests to answer and create your own responses to the music.

We hope that the lesson will inspire students to get creative through classical music and get involved with the next stage of the Ten Pieces Secondary project. Early next year we'll be inviting you to send in your students' creative responses to be showcased on the Ten Pieces website.

**Here's how you can get involved…**

Make sure your students have listened to or have watched the clips of the three pieces before tuning into the Live Lesson.

More details to follow soon! Look out for the launch of the Live Lessons website or email livelessons@bbc.co.uk for more information.

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**Composition lessons**

Composition lessons are available every Wednesday at 5-20 till 6-20 with professional composer Gabrielle Ridgeon. The sessions are organised as a sequence of short projects each culminating in a completed piece. 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'. Interested students should submit a couple of examples of their work to Gabrielle. Please send for her attention at Stoneham Court, 100 Cockney Hill, Reading, RG30 4EZ. 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.

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