



...teaching music, changing lives!

General Information on Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Hub 2017-18

Berkshire Music Hub

The Berkshire Music Education Hub (BMEH) exists to ensure that all children and young people are able to access and enjoy the best possible musical education with integrated opportunities to explore, develop and pursue their personal musical interests. The Hub consists of a number of key partners who each bring skills, knowledge, expertise and resources that they share for the long term benefit of all participants.

Some aspects of the hub's provision are externally funded (e.g. through the annual government grant) and these aspects are enhanced further by contributions from parents, charitable trusts, commercial sponsorship, fund raising and from support from voluntary and community organisations.

Berkshire Maestros is very proud to lead the Berkshire Music Hub and to work in partnership with over 98% of Berkshire schools to support their music curriculum and their wider aspirations for student and school enrichment. We know that music can stimulate and challenge children and give them a real sense of achievement as well as helping to create a powerful community bond across the whole school. Working together to provide exciting opportunities for children to sing together and perform is important for us as musicians and educators as we strive to achieve the best possible musical provision for children and young people across the county and beyond.

We are committed to facilitating a wide range of music-making activities in and out of schools including:

- Instrumental and singing opportunities
- Out-of-school ensembles, orchestras, bands, choirs and music groups
- Targeted workshops and programmes for primary, secondary and SEND schools
- Large-scale high quality musical opportunities and experiences
- Opportunities for children and young people from challenging circumstances
- Advanced progression opportunities for gifted and talented students and children with musical potential
- Inspirational workshops, masterclasses and events with professional musicians and artists

We also bring together opportunities for music learning across the county by signposting young people, parents, teachers, school leadership teams and music educators from the wider community to information, advice and activities. One of our key goals is to support professionals working with young people through music – for example: through offering professional development for primary school non-specialist music teachers and music subject co-ordinators; secondary school music teachers, Heads of Music, Special School teachers, music tutors and leaders, community musicians and youth workers and we provide networking opportunities for colleagues involved through conferences and local networking meetings.

The Berkshire Music Hub with Maestros has recently been commended by Arts Council England as one of the most highly effective, high performing hubs in England.

Arts Council England's annual feedback December 2017 include the following strengths:

- Excellent school engagement with Berkshire Maestros working with at 99.8% primary and secondary schools to deliver core roles

- We continue to be a highly effective, high performing music hub with school engagement and First Access provision at 54% largely above national average of 29.9%
- School supported under the SMEP 18.7% above national average
- Schools supported to deliver the singing strategy is 25.5% above national average
- Continued emphasis on choral development and largescale musical events
- Excellent ensemble provision
- Commitment to CPD programmes
- Early Years training programmes
- Extension roles of the NPME are well supported

We are delighted with this feedback as it supports and recognises our hard work and commitment to our children and young people, our staff, schools, parents and partners. Now that ACE have confirmed hub funding until 2020, we look forward to further developing these areas as well as improving and expanding our provision to continue providing the best possible musical service and support to all of our stakeholders.

Berkshire Maestros

Berkshire Maestros is a charitable trust (284555) providing music education opportunities to children and young people across Berkshire.

Vision Statement:

All children and young people in Berkshire will experience an inspirational, high-quality musical education and the joy of making music with others.

Mission Statement:

Berkshire Maestros is the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Education Hub. Through our passion for music making, creativity, expertise and excellence, we aim to deliver the highest quality musical education to meet the aspirations and needs of every child, young musician, school and music leader in Berkshire. We aim to inspire and empower our young musicians and create life-enhancing, enjoyable and sustainable musical opportunities through providing first access and coherent, progressive pathways and enable our community to achieve their potential, develop and celebrate through music. We will consistently fulfil our promise of *'Teaching Music, Changing Lives'* through delivering outstanding value, continuous innovation and exceptional quality - we will bring the best to everyone we reach.

Core Values:

- Ambition and access for every child and young person
- Excellence in practice
- Commitment to our partnerships and community working
- Respect, professionalism and investment in our colleagues
- Effective and evolving communication
- Positive and proactive approach
- Determination to drive continuous improvement and embrace change

British Values and Arts Council Quality Principles

In all areas of our work, Berkshire Maestros supports:

- the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- the seven quality principles as set out by Arts Council England.

Striving for excellence and innovation
Being authentic
Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience
Actively involving children and young people
Enabling personal progression
Developing belonging and ownership

Established in 1982 to support the development of young musicians throughout Berkshire, in 1992 the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust was reshaped to become a much larger charity delivering a comprehensive range of music services under contract to Berkshire County Council. In 1998, Berkshire County Council was abolished and replaced by Unitary Authorities. The Trust rebranded as Berkshire Maestros (Maestros) in 2007 and took an even wider remit for providing music services throughout the area. In April of 2012, Maestros was awarded by Arts Council England the contract to lead the 'Music Hub' for Berkshire and the delivery of the National Plan for Music Education and subsequently, the Schools' Music Education Plan.

Every week during the academic year, nearly 6,000 students receive instrumental lessons in school or at one of our four main music centres. These centres serve young people in Reading, Wokingham, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest. We also offer lessons and ensemble opportunities in four smaller satellite music centres in Hungerford, Caversham and Wokingham and will be expanding localised provision in the Ascot and Maidenhead areas in the near future. Tuition covers all instrumental families; brass, guitar, keyboard, percussion, strings, woodwind and voice and encompasses a wide range of styles and genres. We also deliver lessons in theory, composition and music technology as required.

We provide our students with opportunities to participate in a variety of orchestras, bands, chamber groups and choirs ranging from beginner level groups to advanced ensembles for our most gifted and talented musicians. We have a thriving Academy@Maestros programme of enrichment activities and courses for young people demonstrating exceptional musical ability and potential and hold a comprehensive Register of Exceptional Musical Ability (REMA) in order to ensure we provide a personalised learning pathway for each child to support them in realising their musical potential.

Our top level County Groups also attract large numbers of the most advanced performers from across the county and beyond. Many of these perform on tours in Europe and in national competitions as well as concerts across the county and over recent years, several Maestros ensembles have been selected to participate in the Music for Youth School Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. Many of our students go on to pursue their passion for music at nationally renowned conservatoires and universities, going on to hold places in world renowned orchestras.

As part of our role for the Berkshire hub, we also deliver the government's First Access Programmes (in2music) in almost all primary schools across Berkshire affording all Year 3 or 4 pupils the opportunity to start learning a musical instrument in line as outlined in the National Plan for Music Education. Our continuation rates are consistently high but there is still work to be done in future years in order to ensure the long term success of these programmes.

Our innovative 'Learn it Live'© Programme offers schools the opportunity to participate in live, interactive performances and workshops of A level and GCSE set works and pieces from a range of Areas of Study. This area of support for schools is personalized annually and is responsive to school needs and requests. We also include activities for KS2/3 Gifted and Talented pupils as well as including creative workshops and opportunities for pupils to hear wonderful music live in professional venues such as the Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke. For example, during 2018, we are collaborating with Orchestras Live and the RPO to bring relaxed music workshops and performances to over 2000 children at the Hexagon Theatre, Reading.

We offer a comprehensive range of musical services to all ages, including Early Years and adults and are working with a number of external musical providers in the area to ensure that a wide variety of high quality musical opportunities is available to not only all children and young people but members of the wider community and music practitioners across the sector. We offer a comprehensive Continual Professional Development programme to Senior Management Teams, music subject leaders and teachers across the county and beyond, leading and participating in regular

networking meetings to facilitate the sharing of good practice. Our new 'Supporting Music Education in Schools' brochure for 2018-19 is available from February 2018.

We have over 60 full time contracted musical professionals currently on staff as well as another 100 part time and self-employed musical experts who work with us regularly to provide musical tuition, ensemble direction and high quality musical experiences. Due to ongoing growth and expansion, Berkshire Maestros will be seeking a further number of high-calibre and enthusiastic graduate musicians for September 2018 to join our unique paid internship programme '*Earn While You Learn*' and details about the scheme will be available on the Maestros website.

Opportunities to join Berkshire Maestros

Due to unprecedented expansion across the Hub, we continue to seek a number of experienced musicians and teachers throughout the year and we welcome applications from specialists in upper and lower strings, woodwind, trumpet, trombone, French Horn, voice (all genres), piano, guitar (classical, bass and electric guitar), Early Years and percussion. Development of Early Years, music theatre, primary singing/choral development and music technology, are also planned and we would particularly like to hear from practitioners who could offer skills in these areas.

For further information about these opportunities and about Maestros and the Hub please see: www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk or contact jobs@berkshiremaestros.org.uk