



## News Release (for immediate publication)

16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### **“Strong governance” of Berkshire Music Hub leads to an outstanding review by Arts Council England**

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**Arts Council England has praised the Berkshire Music Hub on another strong year of performance with a very positive annual feedback letter.**

Strengths outlined include excellent school engagement, commitment to quality assurance, strong partnership working, rising pupil numbers from a range of backgrounds being identified as exceptionally talented, quality music learning opportunities and strong governance of the organisation.

Lynne Ellis, CEO of Berkshire Maestros, said:

*“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.”*

Music hubs were launched across the country in 2012, funded by Arts Council England, and Berkshire Maestros has been the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Hub ever since. Hubs are dynamic partnerships made up of strategic local, regional and national music organisations and individual professional musicians and artists as well as schools and Unitary Authorities. The Berkshire Music Hub brings together many national and local music organisations and individuals, including Readipop, Reading Arts, Windsor Festival, Philip Brown Violins and Hogan Music.

In November 2016 the government announced that [funding for music hubs would be continued until 2020](#), confirming that 121 hubs will share £300 million of funding.

Lynne Ellis continued:



*“Now that Arts Council England has confirmed hub funding for the next four years, 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 everyone we work with.”*

Arts Council England’s full review stated:

- Excellent school engagement at 98% across both primary and secondary schools.
- Commitment to quality assurance through observation of hub partner activity with 94% of all observed sessions deemed good or better
- A significant rise of pupils from a range of backgrounds being identified as exceptionally talented and being given the opportunity to experience world class performing opportunities
- Partnership working remains strong, including sustained relationships with voluntary organisations and genuine partnerships with music and education sector organisations
- Continued great work in developing Early Years provision through bespoke [Pantomimus](#) and [Mini Maestros](#) programmes.
- Quality music learning opportunities provided to secondary schools through the Hub’s innovative [Learn it Live](#) programme, with plans to expand further to include Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils
- A commitment to making provision as accessible as possible by adapting and tailoring provision based on regular needs’ analysis
- Significant developments in digital practice, especially through Maestros’ contemporary programme – [Soundstage](#)

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors**



### ***Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Hub***

- Berkshire Maestros is the lead organisation of the Berkshire Music Hub. The Hub receives Arts Council England funding to co-ordinate and lead musical activities across West Berkshire, Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell, Maidenhead, Windsor and Slough.
- Berkshire Maestros is a charitable trust providing music education opportunities to children and young people in Berkshire. Established in 1982 as the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust, it rebranded as Berkshire Maestros in 2006 and is the provider of music tuition in schools and music centres for Bracknell Forest, Reading, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Wokingham Unitary Authorities.
- The Music Hub offers hundreds of bands, choirs and orchestras to allow children to build on their lesson experience. Many of these take place at our music centres based in Bracknell, Wokingham, Newbury, Reading and Windsor
- To download any logos from Berkshire Maestros or the Berkshire Music Hub please go to [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/press.html](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/press.html)
- If you would like more information, please contact Vanessa Harbutt, Marketing Officer on 0118 901 2357, or email [press@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:press@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)