



*...teaching music, changing lives!*



## News Release (for immediate publication)

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### **Title: Berkshire Maestros celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

---

This week sees the local music education charity Berkshire Maestros celebrate 35 successful years since its incorporation.

The Berkshire Young Musicians Trust (the registered company name of Berkshire Maestros) took over teaching instrumental and singing lessons across Berkshire, and running many county music groups and music courses, from Berkshire County Council in October 1982. Operating from Mockbeggar House on Whiteknights Road, the trust launched with a bang by holding a concert at the Royal Albert Hall. Concerts there and at many venues across Berkshire, such as The Hexagon in Reading, became a regular fixture and still are today.

Then, as now, teaching instrumental and singing lessons forms the backbone of the trust's objectives, and last year over 6,000 Berkshire children had lessons, and over 18,000 children participated in groups and ensembles.

Now based at Stoneham Court on Cockney Hill, Maestros has local music centres across the county and its students perform at some of the country's most prestigious venues, including the Royal Albert Hall where Berkshire County Youth Choirs sang for a BBC Proms concert this summer. Berkshire Maestros also sends some of its senior groups to perform in major cities overseas every summer.

Key county groups ran by Berkshire Young Musicians Trust back in the 1980s included Berkshire Youth Orchestra (now morphed into Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra), Berkshire Youth Choir (still singing today), Berkshire Youth String Orchestra, and many more. There were also junior opera groups, early music groups and a wealth of other bands and ensembles.

To mark the anniversary, Maestros staff have delved into the archives and found all sorts of photos and concert programmes from the earliest years of the trust. Some of these photos have been put onto a webpage and Maestros would love to hear from anyone who recognises themselves in the photos or who played with them in their earlier years and have stories to tell. Please look at [www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/photoarchive](http://www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/photoarchive) to find out more, or follow them on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/BerkshireMaestros/](http://www.facebook.com/BerkshireMaestros/)) or Twitter (@Bmaestros) to see what people are saying about their memories of Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust.



Photo above: Berkshire Youth String Orchestra in 1986



Photo above: Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2017

----- **Ends** ----- (348 words)

## ***Notes to Editors***

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

- 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 lead provider of music tuition in schools and music centres in Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Wokingham Borough unitary authorities.
- 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.
- Berkshire Music Hub offers a full and diverse range of group music-making opportunities through six area music centres in Reading, Newbury, Bracknell, Windsor, Hungerford, Caversham and Wokingham.
- To download any logos for 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 Marie Watson (Marketing and Communications Manager) on 0118 901 2354, Vanessa Harbutt (Marketing Officer) on 0118 901 2357, or email [marketing@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:marketing@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)