

Media Release

Launch of Berkshire Young Musician of the Year 2019 – Strings Competition

Local music education charity, Berkshire Maestros has just launched its Berkshire Young Musician of the Year 2019 competition in partnership with Windsor Festival. This year's competition focuses on strings players.

The competition is open to young musicians from across Berkshire and provides an opportunity for them to showcase their talents alongside others in their age group.

Entrants will compete across three rounds, the first of which will be a video entry round which will close on 30th November 2018. The further two rounds will involve live performances with the final taking place at The Old Court, Windsor on Sunday 17 March 2019 as part of the Windsor Festival 2019.

Categories

There are four age categories, each with their own winner. The overall winner will be presented with the winner's cup along with their category prize at Windsor Castle on Friday 29 March 2019.

The categories are:

Junior:

Up to 9 years
10 - 12 years

Senior:

13 - 15 years
16 - 18 years

Encouraging young people to enter the competition, Jonathan Burnett, Head of Strings at Berkshire Maestros explained;

'We encourage entries in each of the age categories. Our judging criteria is designed to look much further than technical standards and level of playing. Many other aspects, such as musical awareness and performance flair, will be taken into consideration. These can be present in musically gifted children of any standard.

'Our established professionals will give appropriate, constructive feedback at each stage of the competition to enable entrants to use the competition as a platform for further development. This is an excellent opportunity for young strings players to demonstrate their skills and gain confidence. I would encourage anyone interested to give it a go!'

Director of Windsor Festival, Martin Denny added;

'Windsor Festival is delighted to be working with Berkshire Maestros again on the Berkshire Young Musician of the Year. The Young Musician of the Year was created to promote music-making amongst students from the local area in parallel with Windsor Festival International String Competition. Both competitions aim to encourage and inspire, and to build performing experience and to give the students an audience. We wish all those who apply this year all the best!'

Entry to the competition is open to musicians who will be 18 years old or under on 17 March 2019 – the date of the final – and who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a permanent resident of Berkshire
- attending a school within Berkshire
- receiving instrumental tuition within the county of Berkshire

For more information and to enter online visit www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk/BYM

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Note for Editors:

Berkshire Maestros:

Berkshire Maestros is a long-established children's charity offering musical education opportunities to children across Berkshire, regardless of ability, background or circumstance. We work closely with schools across the county to allow all children access to music and the opportunity to play an instrument. Through our seven music centres, we offer children of all ages the chance to sing, play instruments and enhance their life-skills through music.

Our choirs, orchestras and ensembles perform at prestigious venues across the county and beyond – helping the children to develop their team-working and communications skills as well as building their confidence.

Headquartered in Reading, the organisation has centres in Bracknell, Newbury, Windsor and Wokingham as well as satellites in Caversham and Hungerford. Further expansion is planned for the coming year.

Windsor Festival

Windsor Festival was founded in 1969 with Yehudi Menuhin and Ian Hunter as Artistic Directors and Laurence West as Executive Chairman. The original idea for the Festival was put forward by Robin Woods (Dean of Windsor) in 1968 based around the participation of the Menuhin Festival Orchestra with Yehudi Menuhin using St George's Chapel, the State Apartments of Windsor Castle and the Theatre Royal. The Dean decided to form the Windsor Festival Society, which then moved to plan the first Festival. Since that time the Festival has continued to attract distinguished artists from around the world.