



APRIL 2021



# SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our schools newsletter. It's wonderful to be able to undertake all our usual activities again in schools, albeit in a Covid safe, socially distanced manner! In this newsletter we have lots of ways to help you celebrate the return of music!



## Introducing Katie Minien

Hello! My name is Katie and I am the Singing Development Coordinator and Vocal Animateur for West Berkshire and Reading. Singing is my passion and I love to inspire and encourage singing wherever I go. I studied Musical Performance at university and my love of music education led me to complete my PGCE.

In my role at Berkshire Maestros I promote and teach voice as well as direct several school choirs and productions. I am the Musical Director for three Newbury Music Centre choirs and Associate Musical Director of Berkshire County Youth Choirs. I would love every child to have the opportunity to sing and am here to help and support your school so please do get in touch with anything singing related!

[katieminien@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:katieminien@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

## WEBINAR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FREE

**Tuesday 11 May**

4.00pm - 4.45pm

### A Level composition webinar: Ready, Steady, Compose! Adapting the Recipe

Gareth Holwill will show your students how to adapt existing musical ingredients to create a new composition. Your students can join this interactive webinar as a class, or individually with their own devices.

[BOOK HERE](#)

FREE

**Thursday 13 May**

4.00pm - 5.15pm

### Singing Picnics training session

See below for more details about this exciting event for all primary schools!



[BOOK HERE](#)

£8

**Wednesday 19 May**

4.00pm - 5.00pm

### Beat Goes On - Body Percussion and Literacy KS1/2

Based on our collaboration with Pie Corbett, we take lines from books or children's creative writing and explore their rhythmic potential when spoken out loud. We then use this as a stimulus for body percussion composition. This fun session is suitable for all - please share with your literacy co-ordinator!

[BOOK HERE](#)

£8

**Thursday 20 May**

4.00pm - 5.00pm

### Beat Goes On - Afro-Brazilian Body Percussion KS2/3

This interactive session will take you on a musical journey around Brazil, stopping off at the Rio Carnival as well as lesser known, but equally funky grooves from Salvador and elsewhere. With your body as the instrument, the ideas from the session can be applied in any location without specialist equipment.

[BOOK HERE](#)

FREE

**Wednesday 26 May**

4.00pm - 4.45pm

### GCSE composition webinar: Creating motifs and developing themes

Joe Cowie will show your students how to create motifs and develop them into musical themes. Also suitable for students planning to study GCSE Music from September. Your students can join as a class, or individually with their own devices.

[BOOK HERE](#)



## SINGING PICNICS

FREE

Have you missed singing over the last year? We definitely have, and we know a lot of children have missed out on their usual performances such as our Junior Music Festivals, and on making lots of wonderful music together.

As this is a year like no other, we are launching an event like no other - Singing Picnics! This will be an opportunity for your school to get back to singing in an accessible and Covid-safe way this summer term. The aim is to have fun and bring together your school community and embrace the joy of singing.

To register for more information, [click here](#) - we would also strongly encourage you to attend our webinar if you can, as this will be a great opportunity to learn all the songs and ask any questions.



## SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

**Deadline Thursday 27 May!**

Have you seen our new [Support for Schools brochure](#)? In order for us to prioritise your request for 2021/22 please complete our order form by Thursday 27 May.

We will always do our best to fulfil requests for music provision received at any point, but we cannot guarantee availability of teachers or instruments for requests received after this date.



## MUSIC MARK SCHOOLS

FREE

**Free membership available**

We are delighted to be able to nominate schools in Berkshire for FREE Music Mark Membership!

Benefits include:

- Access to online resources including guidance, teaching resources, and ideas to support the delivery of music
- Access to free online training events
- Use of the Music Mark school logo on your website, stationery and other media

For further details of how to apply, please take a look in our schools brochure [here](#)

Services and Support for

## Schools

in Berkshire



## MODEL MUSIC CURRICULUM

We are excited to see the launch of the new non-statutory [Model Music Curriculum](#).

We are considering how best to support schools in their provision of a well structured, ambitious music curriculum, whether or not they choose to use the model curriculum. Please do let us know what training needs you and your teachers have so that we can include this in our plans.

*We hope you have found this newsletter useful and have enjoyed reading about the activities Berkshire Maestros is offering to help you bring music back into your school. If you have any feedback for us please email [marketing@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:marketing@berkshiremaestros.org.uk) - we would love to hear from you!*