

...teaching music, changing lives!

Welcome to Berkshire Maestros and the Berkshire Music Education Hub

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Berkshire Maestros is an independent charitable trust providing music education opportunities to children and young people across Berkshire and beyond.

Our Vision

All children and young people in Berkshire will experience an inspirational, high quality musical education.

www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Background

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 six discrete Unitary Authorities. The Trust rebranded as Berkshire Maestros in 2007 and took an even wider remit for providing music services throughout the area. In April 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.

Core Business

Every week during the academic year, nearly 6,000 students receive instrumental lessons in school or at one of our seven local music centres. These centres serve young people in Reading, Wokingham, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest. 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) to ensure we provide a personalised learning pathway for each child to support them in realising their musical potential.

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), Wigmore Hall and Festival Hall amongst others. During 2018, we collaborated with Orchestras Live and the RPO to bring relaxed music workshops and orchestral performances to over 2000 children at The Hexagon theatre (Reading) and, in March 2019, will bring nearly 2000 Berkshire children and young people to perform at the Royal Albert Hall.

County Youth Ensembles

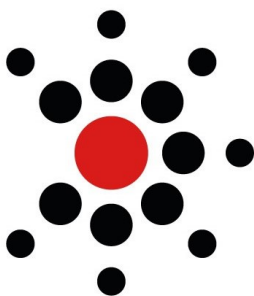
Our top level County Groups attract large numbers of the most advanced performers from across the county and beyond. Many of these perform on tours in Europe and in national competitions as well as concerts across the county and over recent years, several Maestros ensembles have been selected to participate in the Music for Youth 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.

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 local network meetings to facilitate the sharing of good practice. One of our key goals is to support professionals working with young people through music. Our schools prospectus outlining our services and support is available on our website.



Staff

We have over 60 full-time contracted musical professionals currently on staff as well as another 100 part-time and self-employed experts who work with us regularly to provide high-quality tuition, ensemble direction and engaging musical experiences. Due to ongoing growth, Maestros will be seeking a further number of high-calibre and enthusiastic graduate musicians for September 2019 to join our unique paid training programme '*Earn While You Learn*' as well as workshop leaders and curriculum specialists.



Berkshire Music Education 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 opportunities to explore, develop and pursue their personal musical interests. The Hub consists of a number of key partners who bring skills, knowledge, expertise and resources that they share for the benefit of all participants. Some aspects of the hub's provision are externally funded through the annual DfE grant, enhanced further by contributions from parents, charitable trusts, commercial sponsorship, fund raising and from support from voluntary and community organisations.

Maestros is very proud to lead the Berkshire Music Education Hub and to work closely with over 98% of Berkshire schools to support their music curriculum and their wider aspirations for student and school enrichment. 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.

As part of our role within the BMEH, we ensure delivery of 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 as outlined in the National Plan for Music Education

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 SEN/D 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
- Cross-curricular projects in collaboration with professionals from other arts disciplines
- Adult choirs and ensembles including musical opportunities for those living with dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, memory loss and those recovering from strokes



Arts Council England's annual feedback confirms that we are an extremely effective music hub. Strengths include:

- Our continued large reach of children in schools – we work with over 98% of primary and secondary schools to deliver the core and extension roles of the NPME and our support of schools is 10.7% above the national average.
- We are 25.9% above the national average with the delivery of our singing strategy; the quality of our choral development and singing opportunities in events for children has been praised.
- We have increased our ensemble provision last year by 1.9% and with 158 ensembles have 1% more pupils participating regularly than the national average.
- We offer 100% of our primary schools a free First Access project and 78% of schools participated last year – once again this is comfortably above the national average by 31%.
- We support 100% of our primary schools and 91.8% of our secondary schools under the School Music Education Plan which is 19.9% above national average.
- Individual instrumental and singing lessons provided by the hub are 3.9% above the national average with group tuition at 3.4% above national average.
- Our commitment to collaborative and partnership working with conservatoires, community groups and professional artists has also been praised as has our Continual Professional Development programme, our Internship and Early Years training programmes.
- A particular strength - our large scale musical events which give thousands of children opportunities to perform and showcase the range and quality of our work. In 2017-18, over 6000 children and young people across Berkshire participated in large events.

Maestros 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

As part of Berkshire Maestros' long term strategic plan, we are expanding our provision and business. We are developing the range of opportunities on offer to schools, pupils, parents, community groups and the commercial sector across the county and are increasingly working with external partners to provide high quality, diverse and exciting experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds. We aim to ensure that the Berkshire Music Hub is a vibrant, dynamic and growing community serving the musical needs of all.

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