

14th April 2016

Berkshire Maestros' Reading Area Concert Band Platinum Award

Berkshire Maestros' Reading Area Concert Band has won a prestigious Platinum award at the National Concert Band Festival! The festival took place in Manchester at the Royal Northern College of Music on Sunday 10th April, and the band returned home with one of the top awards.

The band, who range in age from 13 to 18, initially won their place at the festival in November 2015 when they competed at the regional heats. At the festival they were competing against around 40 other bands, with many of the other band's abilities being much more advanced than that of Reading Area Concert Band's teenagers.

The band consists of a combination of instruments, including woodwind, brass, percussion and piano. It is conducted by Berkshire Maestros' flute teacher Cathy Laney. She said:

"They performed brilliantly. The fact that our children are successfully competing at a national level is proof that quality music is being made at Berkshire Maestros' Reading Music Centre."

The musicians made a weekend of the festival, travelling up the day before so that they would be fresh for their performance. The band performed *Paris Sketches* by Martin Ellerby, a piece which has been described as *"Poetic, humorous, wistful and thrilling, its four movements vividly evoke the spirit...associated with the city."*

Upon hearing of the award, Lynne Ellis, Chief Executive Officer for Berkshire Maestros, tweeted:

"Maestros simply the best! Well done all. Very proud CEO!"

News release



Ends

Notes to Editors

Berkshire Maestros

- 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.
- We run hundreds of bands, choirs and orchestras to allow children to build on their lesson experience. These take place at our music centres based in Bracknell, Wokingham, Newbury, Reading and Windsor
- If you would like more information, please contact Vanessa Harbutt, Marketing Officer on 0118 901 2357, or email press@berkshiremaestros.org.uk