



## Update for schools – April 2015

### **Classroom Heroes – towards an inspiring music curriculum in schools Music Hub Annual Conference Friday 26 June**

Once again we are delighted that Hub partners, the University of Reading, will be hosting this year's Berkshire Music Hub conference. The event brings together those responsible for music education in their schools with other music teachers and key experts. The overall theme will be 'Classroom Heroes' – hopefully this will whet your appetite. To find out more look out for our flyer or express an interest with [dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk). During the day we are having separate strands for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and for secondary with choices within each. As well as external experts, we will be sharing some of the best practice here in the County – hence Classroom Heroes. Great news, charges have been frozen at last year's level, just £75 per delegate and ... there will be enough food for everyone.

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### **Transition evenings**

Just a reminder that Maestros staff are available to attend transition (new pupil) evenings in schools as long as we get enough notice. Please contact [naomihinton@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:naomihinton@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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### **Berkshire Maestros Open Day 2015 – 16 May 12pm – 4pm**

This year's fun filled open day will be happening on the 16 May 2015 at our headquarters, Stoneham Court, Tilehurst. The afternoon will be a great community event designed to encourage people to come along and see what Berkshire Maestros has to offer. We shall have 'Have a Go' sessions for anyone to try out a musical instrument for free as well as various stalls including face painting, arts and crafts, BBQ and ice cream. The afternoon will include performances from many Reading Music Centre ensembles as well as some special guests...

Entry is free with a small fee of £2 for parking.

We hope to see you on the day for a fun filled afternoon in the summer sunshine (hopefully...) Please let your children know about the event.

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### **Forthcoming events for primary and secondary school music leaders - error**

In our last newsletter we mistakenly announced a date for the Wokingham primary music subject leaders meeting at Addington School. Sadly this is now not happening on Wednesday 20 May.

As soon as a new date is set we will circulate it.

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## Flamenco Workshop

We are delighted to announce that world renowned flamenco guitarist Rafael will be working with any advanced guitarists (grade 6 and above) on Sunday 17 May at the Reading Music Centre, Stoneham Court. Any advanced guitarist can attend not just students of Berkshire Maestros. There is a notional charge of £20 per place. Further details: [amywhitaker@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:amywhitaker@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

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## Advance notice

We have been offered a date for Royal Albert Hall 2016. The bad news first, it is Sunday 1 May – yes, the bank holiday weekend.

The good news, we have accepted (it was the only date available). It does mean families can have a relaxing day out in London. It is secondary focused featuring highlights from Handel's Messiah. We are working hard to book a date for 2017 for a primary concert. Secondary music departments, please register initial interest by emailing [philiplitchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:philiplitchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk). If you can, please indicate likely numbers of boys and of girls that would participate. If we have too many wanting to take part we will draw school names out of a hat to be fair to all. We will take account in allocating places of numbers on roll as previously requested.

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## Big Play Days 2015

Following the success of the Big Play Days we are launching a campaign to involve all children and young people, who learn a musical instrument, in ensembles both in and out of schools. The evidence is very clear, the more they play the better they become and the better your exam results will be! Any young person joining a Music Hub ensemble next term will get their membership at the greatly reduced price of just £20 for the term (this does not apply to auditioned county groups).

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## Reading Can!

If you teach in or around Reading you may be interested to hear more of the year of culture 2016 that is being planned. You are welcome to drop in to Reading University on Thursday 23 April room L29, London Road campus from 4 till 6-30. To book a free place: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reflections-2015-festival-of-music-arts-and-learning-tickets-15601050161?aff=eac2>

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## Noisy Kids

Saturday 23 May, 11-30 to 12-45 at the Hexagon, Music Hub partners the RPO present their annual children's concert. Tickets are available from Hexagon Box Office. There is even a family ticket for just £27. The concert is titled: Magic and Mystery and features music ranging from Harry Potter to Danse Macabre. Please draw this to the attention of interested children. It promises once again to be an outstanding event.

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