



Update for venues, independent teachers and partner organisations – January 2014

What is the Hub?

“The Berkshire Music Hub is the totality of the child’s music education experience. The concept of a Hub exists to ensure the co-ordinated provision of a full, varied and high quality music provision for all children and young people across the five local authorities: West Berks; Reading; Wokingham; Bracknell Forest and Windsor and Maidenhead.” In the recent Ofsted Report about music education, HMI Robin Hammerton has written that Music Hubs have an essential role in challenging the improvement of music education provision.

An invitation to anyone involved in the music education

The Berkshire and Oxfordshire Music Hubs are jointly promoting a conference for all music educators. “**The Big Music Conference**” will feature a key note speech from HMI Robin Hammerton. The headline act will be Voces 8. The conference, hosted by Hub partners the University of Reading takes place Thursday 26th June, 9-00 to 4-00. Places are heavily subsidised at just £75 per delegate (including cost of refreshments). For further details and a booking form please email: dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk . This is one of a number of events that attempts to bring together all involved in the child’s music education.

Independent teachers, music teaching organisations, community music groups and venues, your Music Hub needs you!

We launched as a Music Hub with those individuals and organisations that expressed initial interest. We are aware that there is significant activity beyond the official hub partnerships. We would be delighted to hear what you are doing. To realise its full potential, the Music Hub needs to become even more inclusive and more joined up. For example, are you teaching children and young people beyond Grade VII level? All of the Berkshire Maestros top level county ensembles have been replaced and now exist only as Hub ensembles. Any young person can audition for places and there is no difference in cost of membership regardless of who teaches the child.

School Music Plans

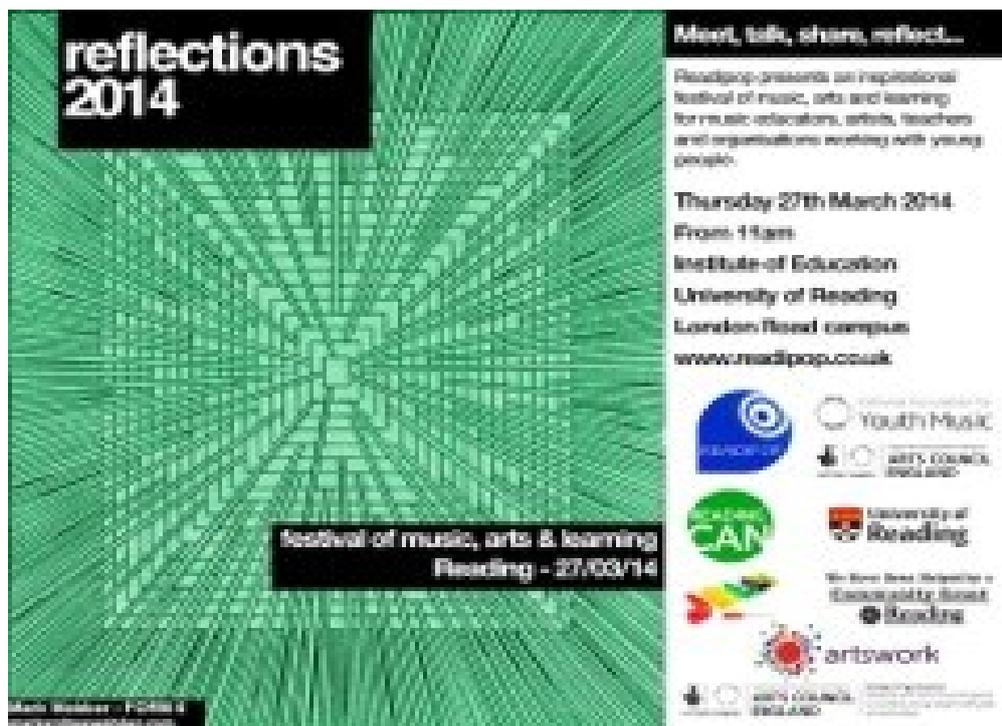
The recent Ofsted report: 'Music in Schools – What Hubs Must Do' is worth reading. It is available to download from the Ofsted website. This report is setting the agenda for ongoing work in schools and is quite critical of what has been achieved so far. In particular all involved in any way shape or form in music education do need to take notice of the comments about provision lacking rigour. It goes on to say: "performance and enjoyment are not enough". As Hub lead we are aware however that performance and enjoyment must be an integral part of musical activity but do not exclude rigour and challenge. The Music Hub has to develop and submit its plan by 31st March. Any hub partner wishing to join the working party please make contact with philiplitchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Also worth reading, the previous Ofsted report about music education: 'Music in Schools – Promoting Good Practice'. This is also available to download from the Ofsted website.

Readipop at The Haven

Congratulations to Readipop for the outstanding work they have been carrying out at The Haven involving working with 30 young people over 25 sessions.

Reflections 2014, a one day festival of music, arts and learning on Thursday 27th March, from 11am at Institute of Education, University of Reading, London Road Campus, £30 day pass (buy 3 get 1 free) / £5 evening pass - book your ticket here <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reflections-2014-festival-of-music-arts-learning-tickets-9421208087>.



The poster for 'reflections 2014' features a green background with a complex, geometric pattern of lines. The text 'reflections 2014' is in the top left, and 'festival of music, arts & learning Reading - 27-03/14' is in the bottom right. A black box in the top right contains the text 'Meet, talk, share, reflect...'. Below this, the poster provides details about the festival, including the date, time, location, and website. It also lists several partner organizations with their logos, including Youth Music, Arts Councils, University of Reading, and artswork.

reflections 2014

festival of music, arts & learning
Reading - 27-03/14

Meet, talk, share, reflect...

Readipop presents an inspirational festival of music, arts and learning for music educators, artists, teachers and organisations working with young people.

Thursday 27th March 2014
From 11am
Institute of Education
University of Reading
London Road campus
www.readipop.co.uk

Partners:

- Youth Music
- Arts Councils
- University of Reading
- artswork

A Celebration of Music in Berkshire

All tickets for the 11th March concert at the Royal Albert Hall are now sold. The event features more than 2000 children and young people from primary, secondary and special schools across Berkshire; a fanfare composed by a 15 year old student from St Barts; the newly formed Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra; the Berkshire Youth Choir; Berkshire Young Voices; Berkshire Youth Percussion and Marimba ensemble and a stunning performance from the BBC Singers. Hub partners, the BBC Singers are filling the soloist places for Carmina Burana and will be performing on their own as well. Ben Parry, Director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain is conducting the performance of Carmina Burana. Local composer Gwyn Arch's Mighty Mississippi will close the first half.

Learn it Live

The innovative 'Learn it Live' programme, developed after requests from secondary music departments to support and enhance 'A' level music continues to thrive and expand. If A level music students haven't received a flier for this, please contact:

carolholliday@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

The Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall

What a triumph. Opening and closing to a packed audience at this most prestigious of venues, the Music Hubs leading instrumental ensemble opened proceedings with a performance of Reading School pupil Harry Davidson's own composition 'Type II' conducted by the composer. Later in the evening this 110 strong orchestra closed with Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance. The audience went wild.



The Music Hub now has a Senior Leader for Contemporary Music

We welcome the appointment of Joe Hurst, a well-known session musician who has been tasked with drawing the contemporary music sector together to ensure that Berkshire offers unparalleled contemporary music opportunities to all children and young people. Over the coming months, Joe will be visiting venues, businesses, organisations and meeting up with individual practitioners to get to know the range of the sector and in particular to plot the current offer looking to identify gaps in resource and opportunities. He will hold a 'meet and greet' session at the Big Music Conference in June at University of Reading as well as running an interactive workshop. Do please introduce yourself if you haven't yet met him.

Bringing the pre-school sector together

Similarly, Margareta Burrell has been appointed by the Music Hub to lead provision for Early Years music. There will be a particular strand at the Big Music Conference for all involved in this area. Margareta's first task is to get to know all the individuals and organisations involved in early years music provision, ensure their training needs are met and seek to identify where there is little or no early years music provision.

Making a Difference

Congratulations to Hub Partners the London Chamber Orchestra on their excellent work at Barnados, High Close School, Wokingham. The Music Junction programme enables children to experience from within an orchestra the power of music and to explore their own musical ideas. Led by Neil Valentine, the recent workshops were simply outstanding.

How do you get involved?

We are inviting you to find out more about the Hub and to attend an event in your locality. To find out more about this, please email: philip.litchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk or telephone 01189012360.

The Berkshire Music Hub is led by local charity the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust, trading as Berkshire Maestros on behalf of all children and young people in Berkshire. Registered Charity No 284555. To donate to either our fund for disadvantaged children please contact: amandaknight@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

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