



Update for hub partners – January 2015

Happy new year

Thank you so much to all of our hub partners for such an excellent 2014. Children and young people from across Berkshire benefited magnificently from the input of so many excellent musicians and music organisations. There was a real sense of coming together and sharing resources to make a difference. Again, thank you so much.

Schools Steel Band Festival

The second Schools Steel Band Festival will take place at St Gabriel's School, Newbury on Tuesday 3 March 2015, 5.30pm - 7pm. Following the success of the first event which saw six schools' steel bands join together to create a steel percussion orchestra of more than one hundred children for an exciting finale performance, the second event will be even bigger and better.

The event, organised by CultureMix Arts and part funded by Youth Music, will showcase Gifted and Talented children from primary schools across Berkshire in a celebration of music, dance and song.

Tickets are £2.50 each and free to children under 12 years. For more information go to www.culturemixarts.co.uk

5th Windsor Festival International String Competition 2015

This prestigious event takes place 15th to 22nd March. The 8 selected semi-finalists will arrive in Windsor on 15th March, the semi-finals themselves take place at the Guildhall on 18th March with the final itself in the Waterloo Chamber, Windsor Castle 20th March. The participants will visit schools to lead workshops on the 16th March with advanced masterclasses on 19th March. The Festival concludes with a Music Hub Concert at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle on Saturday 21st March where The Berkshire Music Hub's Camerata ensemble will perform Haydn's cello concerto together with Raphael Wallfisch followed by the county youth choirs and Windsor and Maidenhead schools singing Haydn's Nelson Mass. The Camerata is formed of the most talented young musicians in the county.

Calling all Hub Partners

Are you mentioned in this newsletter? We can only include updates and information that we are sent. Our next newsletter will be going out in early April. Please send material in plenty of time.

Big Play Days 2015

Why do children learn to play a musical instrument if they don't want to use it playing with others? We are launching a massive initiative to get young instrumentalists into bands, choirs and orchestras across Berkshire and not just those taught by Berkshire Maestros, but in fact any child learning an instrument. The Big Play Days will take place in the Hub's area music centres, mostly based in schools. These are a fun and interactive introduction to these ensembles and will take place as follows:

Bracknell and Wokingham Music Centres	Strings – 31/01/15 Woodwind & Brass – 28/02/15
Newbury Music Centre	All instruments – 28/02/2015
Windsor Music Centre	All instrument – 31/01/2015
Reading Music Centre	Brass & Percussion – 07/03/2015 Strings & Woodwind – 14/03/2015

To find out more, contact the relevant music centre manager. Contact details can be found from the Maestros website.

Percussion Day

We have secured Kevin Hathway from the Purcell School and Philharmonia Orchestra to lead a percussion day for the Music Hub. During the day there will be a range of clinics and activities. The day will take place on 8th March from 9-30 till 5 at the Open Learning Centre, Bracknell. Further details to do with the programme of events will be circulated to local percussion teachers and their students and be available nearer the event on the Berkshire Maestros website.

Advanced notice

We are in the initial stages of planning the next two 'mega-hub' choral events at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Following feedback from the last event, we have decided to split primary and secondary so in 2016 we intend to put on a secondary concert: Choruses from Messiah. Also taking part in the first half of the concert will be steel pans from Culture Mix as well as an orchestra and a guitar orchestra. The second meg

hub event will be in 2017 a primary concert as yet untitled. As soon as we have news on dates we will let schools know. Please do not write in about these yet.

Guitars go to Manchester

A massive thank you to international guitar superstar Craig Ogden and the team from the Royal Northern who are hosting the county's best guitarists including performances at the Bridgewater Hall. We talk about 'teaching music, changing lives' these hub experiences are transformational.

Training for string teachers



This February ESTA is offering four Sunday afternoon sessions for string teachers to further examine some of the many pathways in teaching. Each session will be presented by Simon Fischer, one of the UK's leading instrumental string educators. Sessions are designed for those wishing to investigate and/or improve their knowledge and teaching skills. They will be held at the Primrose Hill Community Centre, London NW1 8TN 2.30-5.30.

All string teachers, with or without their instruments, are welcome. People can book for the whole series or pick and choose between the sessions. For further information or to book please visit <http://estastringevents.org/PathwaysInTeachi/home>

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