



Update for hub partners – March 2014

Musical March

The month of March has seen the hub working at its best with significant large scale music events throughout the month.

Pride of place must go to the first ever Schools Steel Band Festival. Led by Culture Mix Arts more than 100 steel pan players crammed into the sports hall at St Gabriel's School, Newbury to participate in an evening of high quality music. In addition to dancers from Welford and Wickham CE Primary School and the Theale CE Primary School choir, the concert featured steel bands from Oxford Road Community School, Lambourn Primary School, Pangbourne Primary School, Springfield Primary School, Theale CE Primary School and Welford and Wickham CE Primary School. They were joined on stage by performers from the Reading All Steel Percussion Orchestra and entertained by the St Gabriel's School Big Band.

Tuesday 11th March witnessed some 2000 plus children and young people from a large number of Berkshire primary, secondary and special schools perform to a packed Royal Albert Hall. They sang their hearts out performing Mighty Mississippi in front of the composer Gwyn Arch and librettist Pat Rooke. Following the interval the performance of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana conducted by National Youth Choir's director Ben Parry with soloists from hub partners the BBC Singers was as good as it gets. Quote from Ben: "I was very impressed with what you've managed to achieve with music in your county. I can't think of another part of the UK who could put on a show like that. Carmina was indeed quite a blast, and good fun, but I must say that I was impressed and rather moved by the primary kids in the 1st half, as well as the fine fanfare and percussion ensembles. The BBC Singers were saying to me how much they enjoy working with you. You should be justly proud of what you achieved."

and the beat goes on...

Led by Bracknell Forest's music advisory teacher Lynne Beck, Bracknell primary schools come together on Sunday 23rd March at the Bracknell Leisure Centre for the first of the Hub's 1st World War commemoration concerts entitled 'Lest we forget'. The

same evening Wokingham primary schools give the first of two concerts at the Reading Hexagon featuring both Mighty Mississippi and other songs from the USA, the second involving the remainder of the schools is on Sunday 30th March. Both concerts are led by hub partner Clive Waterman. Meanwhile West Berkshire Primary Schools also perform Mighty Mississippi filling the Anvil (we hope), Basingstoke on March 25th and 26th. On behalf of all children and young people, thank you so much to all involved for making this feast of music a reality.

Conference 2014

Thursday June 26th at Reading University, London Road Campus. The keynote speaker in the morning will be Robin Hammerton, senior HMI music, who will talk about the new Ofsted Music Report and how hubs should support schools. The programme for the rest of the day will have a number of strands for each of: Early Years; Key Stage 2; Transition into Key Stage 3 and Special Needs and music.

Hot off the press, the conference will also feature workshops led by and a performance by international vocal superstars and hub partners Voces8. We are so lucky to book these young singers as their meteoric rise to stardom continues. They have just returned from a high profile tour of the USA where they wowed everyone who heard them.

A full brochure with further information is available from dawngarside@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

Please do book early to guarantee your place. Also to be launched at the conference will be the Hubs Strategic Plan for Music Education in Berkshire.

Hot off the press

BBC learning is launching an exciting new Classical Music and Creativity project called 'Ten Pieces'. The programme kicks off in October. Further details will be given at a special seminar at the Conference in June.

Worrying news

With just one month's notice, the Arts Council has cut the budget for the music hub in Berkshire by some £15000. Please rest assured that we will do our best to reduce any adverse impact of this cut, but inevitably some services will be reduced. We are keeping provision untouched until September and making the necessary changes to provision as from the beginning of the Autumn term.

Forthcoming events

The Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra featuring the best young instrumentalists in the county will be performing at the Reading University Great Hall on Wednesday 9th April at 7-00 pm.

Reading Secondary Music meeting is Wednesday 2nd April at Highdown School starting at 2-30. Bracknell Forest music subject leaders next meeting will be Thursday 15th May at the Easthampstead Park Centre from 4-00. West Berkshire Secondary Music meeting is at St Barts on Tuesday 20th May at 2-00. The Royal Borough music network meeting is Thursday 19th June at the Dedworth Middle School at 2-30. The Wokingham secondary music subject leaders meet at Maiden Erlegh School on Thursday 17th July at 4-00.

To contact the music hub, please email philiplitchfield@berkshiremaestros.org.uk



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