



Andrew Lloyd Webber
Foundation



Date: 07 October 2014

Title: Boost of funding provides talented young musicians with fantastic opportunities

Talented young musicians in the county are set to benefit from a boost in funding this year. The fantastic opportunities provided by Academy@Maestros has impressed trustees at the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation who have kindly offered to financially support this work.

The funding will go into the project which provides exceptionally talented young musicians from all backgrounds with an opportunity to work with specialist instrumental coaches, visiting professional musicians and conductors. This unique opportunity allows like-minded young musicians to work together towards achieving a high level of performance at a cost which is affordable.

The funding was announced by the trust in July and is one of 11 new projects gaining from the support of the foundation.

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: *"I am lucky enough to have had a successful career doing something that I love. It gives me great joy that now my Foundation can support these projects which nurture and support young talent to become the artists of the future."*

Musical director of Academy@ Maestros, Caroline Woodhouse said:

"The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation funding is having a huge impact on the range and quality of provision for our most gifted, talented and promising students. As a result we have been able to secure high level workshops and concerts with visiting specialist musicians for every section of the orchestra and tailored the music according to the needs of each individual player."

She goes on to say that:

"It is clear from the way the young players play and respond to these professional players that they are motivated and inspired in a way which goes above and beyond their everyday music making and they will return from these sessions and share what they have learned with other young players across the county – meaning every young player can grow as a result of this investment."

The first term started with a project bringing our talented young musicians together with a team of mentors from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, rehearsing to perform at the 150th Anniversary of the Father Wills Organs at The Concert Hall, Reading. This concert included classic organ repertoire together with a world premiere of a new piece by composer Soosan Lolavar and was a great success for our young musicians, with one audience member commenting:

'The concert on Saturday at the Town Hall was excellent. Well done to all the Academy on Sundays strings players!'

The experience of working with musicians from the RPO on this premiere was hugely enjoyed by our students as well, as they commented:

'It's inspiring hearing them (RPO) play, they make us sound even better!'

The invaluable injection of funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation is greatly received by all at Berkshire Maestros and we look forward to an exciting year of excellent music making.

For more information about the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation visit www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com and to find out more about Berkshire Maestros or the academy on Sundays scheme visit the website at www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk.

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 Rosie Saxton, Marketing Manager on 0118 901 2386, or email rosiesaxton@berkshiremaestros.org.uk

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £9m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation also owns two important paintings, a Canaletto "Old Horse Guards from St James's Park", currently on exhibition at Tate Britain and a Stanley Spencer "The Garage" on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.