

Weekly update for w/c Monday 05 February 2018

PLEASE NOTE THE NEED TO COMPLETE THE REVISED MAHLER 2 SURVEY (LINK BELOW) BY FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY IN ORDER TO BE INCLUDED ON THE SINGING LISTS

Rehearsal reminders

There is no rehearsal tomorrow Tuesday 6 February because we are recording the Mealor at the City Hall tonight. Next week we will rehearse the Rossini. The rehearsal schedule is on Darius' website at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>; this link is a permanent feature on the [Rehearsal](#) page of our own website.

Mealor recording tonight Monday 5 February 2018 - chorus start time 7pm sharp

The recording will take place in the City Hall on the evening of Monday 5 February 2018. The chorus will be required from 7pm to 9pm, though if the recording goes well we will be released earlier. The hall has been booked from 5.30pm so chorus members may gather on the choir risers earlier if they wish. However, please be as quiet as you can while waiting to be called for recording.

Please don't forget to sign in using the electronic system we use at rehearsal, which will be situated in the north-east corner of the production corridor as always - new people please ask if you aren't sure where to find this. Please be in your places ready to start recording at 7pm; latecomers may have to wait until a break in the recording before coming on stage.

The seating plan is attached and copies will be available on the choir risers. The plan is very different for a normal one for a concert, especially with regard to the ladies' colouring positions. This is because of the need to get homogeneity of sound across the whole 'colour' spectrum for the microphones. Banding the colours horizontally rather than vertically could cause sight line problems for some people. Please nonetheless keep as close as possible to the indicated seats for colours, making as few adjustments for height problems as is necessary. Even so, Darius may need to move people around to achieve the required balance, so be ready to respond as required.

There is no need to be in concert dress, so no dressing rooms are required. We will record from the concert risers, please use the seats at organ level to leave your bags etc.

Please note that, once recording has commenced, we will need to keep still and very quiet, and follow instructions from the recording engineer and Darius very closely, in order to ensure that the recording can be completed that evening.

We have arranged for the car parking voucher offer to be available from the City Hall Box Office, just as it is on concert days, enabling you to pay £3.50 in the Q Park on Rockingham Street. Park your car, go to the box office and get the voucher, which you'll need when you pay. Please note the voucher is only valid at the Rockingham Street car park.

This information is listed on the chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#)

Return of Mozart scores - message from Els Pearse

'For practical reasons could ONLY those people who are unable to attend the rehearsal next week, February 13, return the Mozart scores at the City Hall recording on Monday. All other scores to be returned next week please. I will also start to distribute the music for the After Hours concert on 20 April, for which the hiring cost is £1.00 to cover printing. Thank you for your cooperation as always. Els'

Missing scarf and shoe

Missing after the concert, from the ladies dressing room - a pink silk scarf and a black shoe. If you saw or retrieved either of these items, please let Anne Adams know. Thank you.

Mahler 2 Mini-Tour - please complete new survey by Friday 23 February

The organisers of the Mahler tour told us the wrong date for the concert in Middlesbrough, which has been arranged for Tuesday 1 May, not Monday 30 April. It will be very complicated to try to

combine two surveys, therefore there is little choice but to ask both Leeds and Sheffield choir members who wish to sing in the Mahler concerts to complete a new on-line survey.

Please use the link below to access the survey, and make sure you complete it by Friday 23 February. Please note that members who respond after the deadline will unfortunately not be included on the singing lists for either venue. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MAHLER2>

The details that follow may help members to decide how to respond. The organisers will provide coaches from Leeds/Sheffield to Edinburgh early on the morning of 29 April, and then back to Leeds/Sheffield after the concert, rather than from Edinburgh to Middlesbrough the following day. They will provide coaches from Leeds/Sheffield to Middlesbrough and back again, on Tuesday 1 May. We will book a coach to bring those who stay in Edinburgh back to Leeds/Sheffield on Monday 30th April.

Unfortunately, to add to the difficulties, we are still unsure of the capacity of the newly-built stage at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Depending on the numbers, Darius and David Hill (from Leeds Philharmonic Chorus) may need to select a balanced choir from the revised singing list for the Middlesbrough concert.

Many apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Sight singing sessions start next week

Georgina Hulse will start a new series of sight singing sessions next week, Tuesday 13 February. The sessions, which are open to any member of the chorus, will run from 6.30 to 6.55 each Tuesday evening, ie, immediately before the rehearsal, in the small room where Maggie runs her sessions.

Do you have any ideas, suggestions, comments for the committee?

We have a committee meeting tomorrow evening, and Members Representatives Rachel Mallaband (soprano) and Janet Hoyle (alto) are happy to put your ideas and comments to the committee. If you have anything you would like to raise at the meeting please send an email to either Rachel (rmallaband@outlook.com) or Janet (janet.hoyle1@btinternet.com), or chat to either of them on Tuesday at rehearsal. Thank you.

Scratch Choir for Mayors for Peace event

'Just a note of appreciation to share with the whole chorus. I was delighted with the response of colleagues for this event, at such short notice and with such little time for preparation. Georgina Hulse did a great job in helping us sound like a choir, and the singing was much appreciated by all there. We know this as someone asked Georgina afterwards if we take bookings! Good job there was such a good turnout too, as this worthy event commemorating Holocaust week with a Hiroshima theme, would not have been well attended without us! Thanks to everyone who did or might have participated. Jim Monach'

Mealor concert review

Iwan Fox reviewed the Mealor concert on the 4 Bars Rest specialist brass band website at <http://www.4barsrest.com>. A link has been added to the chorus website at [About us / News](#).

Voice Exchange - Tenors and Basses required

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus invite tenors and basses to join them in a performance of David Fanshawe's African Sanctus on Saturday 7 July at The Octagon Centre. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 14th March to 4 July inclusive (not 4 July) and you would have to be able to attend at least 75% of these. Interested tenors and basses please contact, in the first instance, Nigel Wright on 0114 233 0525 or at wrightnigel@yahoo.com. Please note that sopranos and altos are also invited but must pay a £45 fee and apply direct to Sheffield Oratorio Chorus.

Membership Subscriptions to be paid by 21 February 2018

Please can those who still haven't paid their subs make sure they do as soon as possible. The Constitution requires that these be paid within 3 months of the AGM, which was on 21 November, so by 21 February 2018 please - we don't want anyone to lose their membership! Graham has hard copies of the required form and can advise about payment methods, which are detailed on previous weekly updates; these can be viewed on the chorus website at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#).

Invitation to Classical Sheffield AGM and Social Event on 23 March 2018

Classical Sheffield is holding its first AGM on Friday 23 March from 6.00 to 6.30 pm in the Virgin Money Lounge on Fargate, and all members, including Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, are invited to attend. The AGM will be followed by a social event from 6.30 to 7.30 pm. It would be good to have the chorus well represented at this event.

French Tour in July 2018 - it's not too late to join us!


If you are or think you are involved in the tour de France, please check the web page on the Phil's website at [Members Area / Tour de France](#), to confirm you are listed there, and if not, get in touch with Matthew@goconnect.org.uk. The details on the website are updated by Matthew on a regular basis so do keep an eye out!

Diary Dates are on the website at: [Members Area / Diary Dates](#)

Singing opportunities

Invitations to sing with other groups or for singing tours, holidays and Come Sing events, will be listed on the Chorus web site from now on, at [Members Area / For Information](#).

Website

The website is up and running, at <http://sheffieldphil.org>. If this link takes you to an error page then it is likely that your computer or laptop has stored the old website in its memory (cache) and you will need to clear it by pressing REFRESH or the  symbol, or F5 on your PC keyboard. If this doesn't work it may be that your router needs re-setting; try turning it off for 10 minutes before switching it on again. If none of this works then please contact Anne Adams in the first instance, and she will inform the webmasters Matthew Morgan and Bill Best, to whom we offer grateful thanks for setting up and hosting the new site and for seeing to the background technicalities.

You will need the chorus user name and password to get into the Members Area; the user name is **member** and the password is **dariu5**; these are for the exclusive use of chorus members so please don't share them. A lot of the information that was repeated on the weekly update is now held on the website, so the update will restrict itself to providing new information and links. Previous weekly updates can be viewed at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#).

Classical music in Sheffield - check out what's on at <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events>

Anne Adams can be contacted at administrator@sheffieldphil.org