

Weekly update for w/c Monday 11 December 2017

**PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION BELOW FOR THOSE SINGING AT TICKHILL
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!**

Rehearsal reminders

Tomorrow night there is NO REHEARSAL. The next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 2nd January - yes you have read that correctly - led by Darius, with Rachel on the piano. We will be rehearsing the Paul Mealor work; please arrive in plenty of time to collect the new music, and don't forget to bring your Christmas music back, in its plastic folder and with the markings rubbed out.

Christmas Concert

Thank you to everyone for giving a rousing performance at the Christmas concert. Everyone seemed to enjoy it very much:

Tom Redmond: *'Side of stage listening to [@blackdyke](#) & [@SheffPhilChorus](#) perform O Holy Night. Goose bumps don't get much bigger than this.'*

BBC Radio 3's Petroc Trelawny: *'Very sorry not to be with you this year but hope you have two brilliant concerts. Warm wishes, Petroc'*

Ex-accompanist Nigel Gyte: *'It was wonderful to be amongst you all again yesterday (so to speak), and to hear the concert, which as usual I thoroughly enjoyed. Please pass on my warmest good wishes to EVERYONE and that I hope they have a wonderful festive time and a happy and peaceful New Year. Love Nigel'*

Audience comments via Twitter: *'Feeling a lot more festive thanks to [@SheffPhilChorus](#) [@blackdyke](#) - top performance everyone' 'Awesome choral singing from [@SheffPhilChorus](#)! Feeling very christmassy!' 'Lovely carol concert [@SheffCityHall](#) last night with the beautiful voices of [@SheffPhilChorus](#) accompanied by [@blackdyke](#)'*

Andrea Stafford, who as Artistic Planning manager at the Halle organises our concerts at the City Hall, was at the afternoon concert and really enjoyed it, as did Trisha Cooper, and our loyal supporters who attended the Friends reception. Darius was pleased, especially with the singing in the afternoon which he thought was, unusually, marginally better than that in the evening.

Thanks are due to alto Rachel Rowling who accompanied ex-bass and supporter of the chorus Louis Knapton to the afternoon performance using a ticket very kindly donated by the City Hall; he had a wonderful time. Huge thanks to Helen Kirk and her helpers for organising the Friends Reception, the raffle and the sherry and mince pies, and to Janet Bower for the wonderful cake, which was won by Margaret Brugger. Ann Garbett and her team of early-morning decorators (and post-concert removers) did us proud - the stage looked wonderfully festive, thank you so much! Thanks also to Emily Hart, a lovely music student from the university, who staffed the Awake Arise! CD sales desk in the foyer and - thanks to our terrific compere Tom Redmond - sold 75 of them! And thanks of course to Darius and Rachel for helping us prepare so well this year.

Message from Helen Kirk: *'I would like to thank everyone who helped me on Saturday, things wouldn't run so smoothly without you. Apologies for my bossiness in trying to move people away from the tables in the interval. It is not ideal having the sherry and mince pies in the corridor but I hope you think that it is worth putting up with a bit of physical closeness with fellow chorus and band members in order to enjoy the refreshments. I wish you all a very merry Christmas. Helen'*

Tickhill - Thu 21 Dec 2017 (carols list and map attached) - and note revised address

The concert will be at St Mary's Parish Church, Tickhill, Doncaster, DN11 9LY, at 7.30pm on Thursday 21 December 2017. Please note that singers won't need a ticket but everyone else will - the ticket is in the form of a programme, available on the door. There will be a short rehearsal in the parish church before the concert at 6pm. Please bring 'Silent Night', 'Egypt' and 'Hail Smiling Morn', your copy of 'O Holy Night' from the City Hall concerts, your 100 Carols for Choirs and a copy of Carols for Choirs Book 1 (for Good King Wenceslas) - and your copy of Messiah. Please bring all the music in your black folder, and wear standard Concert Dress - you

might like to wear thermals underneath as it is often extremely cold in the church! There's an unlocked car park near the church that those with cars can use.

All are invited to the party at Janet Bower's afterwards - if you're going please don't forget to take something for the buffet - and your glad rags! Janet lives at Medley Cottage, 56 Castlegate, DN11 9QU, 5 minutes' walk from the church. Please note that the photo in the attachment shows two 56s; Janet's is the one with the blue door.

Station Carols

Thank you to everyone who sang at the station last week, especially to Paul for leading us. It was great fun as always, and the ladies from Heart Research UK were very pleased with the amount of money that hit the buckets; we will report the actual amount collected as soon as we hear.

Classical Sheffield Carol Sing on Thursday 21 December 6.30 to 7pm

Classical Sheffield invites anyone who is free, to sing carols outside the Town Hall next to the Christmas tree, conducted by Robert Webb, from 6.30 to 7pm. You'll need 100 Carols for Choirs. Please register your intention to sing at <https://goo.gl/forms/8dPHZ52NGUYEoTCw2>

Free tickets for choral concert on Tuesday 19 December at St Marie's RC cathedral

The Seven Hill Singers are giving a concert in St Marie's RC cathedral on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. We have five complimentary tickets for this, please contact Anne Adams if you would like any of them, at administrator@sheffieldphil.org.

New website

The new website is up and running, at the same url: <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 **C** symbol, or F5 on your PC keyboard. If this doesn't work 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 **darius5**; these are for the exclusive use of chorus members so please don't share them. The links to the rehearsal schedule on Darius' website is on the [Rehearsal](#) page, which also contains information about signing in and the MAR, and sub-pages about preparing the music with links to rehearsal tracks and an on-line sight-reading course. A lot of the information that was repeated on the weekly update is now held on the website, eg, [Diary Dates](#) and [For Information](#), so the update will restrict itself to providing new information and links to the website. This will hopefully encourage members to use the website regularly.

AGM minutes

Many thanks to all those who stayed for the AGM on 21st November, and to Sue Pennington for producing the minutes, which you will find on our website at [Members Area / Official Documents and Minutes / AGM](#).

Membership Cards and Subscriptions (attachment)

This year's membership cards are now available and Finance Officer Graham Dawson is happy to accept subscription forms and fees. To keep everything legal and our information up-to-date, all members are asked to complete a new subscription form which is attached even if you have a continuing standing order or have already paid. Hard copies are also available from Graham if you don't want to print your own.

Please complete the form accurately as it is used for gift aid purposes and we do encourage all UK taxpayers to gift aid their subscriptions if they can. This brings in 25p for every £1 paid in subscription. Please use the name and address that you are known by to HMRC. Additionally HMRC oblige us to advise you that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

Members can pay by cash, cheque, bank transfer or monthly standing order (full details are on the form). If any member has difficulty with paying their subscription, please consult with Graham over possible options. We have a reduced rate for those who are unemployed or on a low income. If you owe some subscription fees from last year, add the outstanding amount into the figures on this year's form. Membership cards will be issued on receipt of a completed form – and cash/cheque if paying by that method.

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

- The postponed St Lukes concert will now take place on Sunday 21 January at 2pm, rehearsal at 1pm; the music may be revised.
- The tutti rehearsal for the Meador concert in Manchester on Saturday 27 January will be from 5 to 7pm.

For information

Items from this section can be found on the website at [Members / For information](#)

Anne Adams can be contacted at administrator@sheffieldphil.org