

Weekly update for w/c Monday 4 December 2017

ANYONE WHO STILL HASN'T COMPLETED THE MAHLER 2 SURVEY BY WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER, WON'T BE ABLE TO SING IN THE MAHLER 2 CONCERTS. SEE LINK BELOW.

NOTE INFORMATION BELOW ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS, AND IN SECTION 1B FOR THOSE SINGING AT ST LUKES ON SUNDAY!

1a. New this week

Rehearsal reminders

Tomorrow night we will be rehearsing the Christmas music, led by Darius, Rachel on the piano. Note that in 100 Carols for Choirs the First Noel is page 323 and Jesus Child is page 110.

Welcome new members!

Welcome to Richard Tucker a new 1st bass. Many congratulations to you Richard!

URGENT - please complete the survey or lose your chance to sing the Mahler 2

Thank you to those who have completed the survey. The concert promoter is now asking for final numbers, which means that the final singing list will be made up of chorus members who have submitted their intention to sing via the survey. **Please complete the survey if you have not already done so; failure to submit by Wed 6 Dec will result in your being unable to sing in the Mahler 2 concerts.** Here is the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YYWWNZ6>. Please complete all nine required questions (Q10 is optional) within the next week.

Message from Social Events Officer Helen Kirk

"I appreciate that this is a late acknowledgement of the help I received with the cheese and wine do. I am very grateful to everyone and it was lovely that some new members of the chorus also joined the usual helpers, thank you all very much.

I will be collecting more donations over the next two weeks; I apologise that it is so soon after the last collection. This is for our Christmas refreshments of sherry and mince pies in the interval of the evening Christmas concert. I will also be selling raffle tickets; the lucky winner will receive a beautifully iced Christmas cake made by Janet Bower one of our first sopranos..

Again I would greatly appreciate help with setting up at 6pm at the City Hall, and then clearing away after the concert. I will put out a sheet for you to sign up so that I know who to expect. Thank you, Helen"

Helen and her helpers will be on hand outside the upper seating area to sell the raffle tickets and to collect your sherry/mince pie contribution. Thanks everyone!

Arrangements for Christmas carol concerts on Saturday 16 December

Full instructions will appear in next week's update, however please note the following:

- There will be a compulsory rehearsal at 2pm on the afternoon of the concert; please be in your places ready to sing by 2pm.
- As in previous years there is an event in the ballroom so we cannot have the basement dressing rooms. Space will therefore be extremely limited and members are advised to arrive at the City Hall either fully or partly changed. Ladies will be in the Vincent Harris room and DR3, while gents will share the Barbirolli room. Members who have difficulty with stairs may use DR1.
- Those who take packed teas can eat in the dressing room or nearby corridors, or in the auditorium, as long as they clear up after themselves - which of course people always do!
- Ticket holders or performers can get reduced price (£3.50) parking tickets **for the Rockingham Street Q Park only**. Get the voucher from the box office after parking.

Thanks to those who sang in the recent electives

Thanks to those who sang at the Millennium Galleries; we had great fun and the audience enjoyed it too. Here is a message from Melanie Russel from Museums Sheffield: *'Just wanted to say thank you once again for your beautiful performance last night. It was wonderful and I really appreciate the choir generously giving us your time and talents. Best wishes, Mel'* Thanks to our President Rachel Copley for conducting with such cheerful enthusiasm.

Thanks also to those who sang at Kelham Island; though only 11 in number they made a great sound and the market throngs loved it. Many thanks to tenor Donald Watts for organising the carols and for accompanying on the accordion. The efforts of these 11 people made £100 for chorus funds - so our thanks to you all!

Come and Sing opera choruses on Saturday 24 February 2018 (see section 5)

1b. Important reminders

MAR for Christmas Concerts

Last week Darius was approached for special approval on behalf of a Chorus member who could only attend 2 rehearsals for the Christmas Concerts. He was of the firm opinion that, because of the short rehearsal schedule for these concerts, two rehearsals (ie 50%) is simply not enough rehearsal time and he was not prepared to give a special approval. For the sake of consistency, this decision must be applied across the board. There are 5 members to whom this constraint will already apply. More importantly, there are 36 members who are now 'Borderline' because they have missed, or will miss, one rehearsal. They should be aware that, because of Darius' constraint, they therefore cannot afford to miss another if they wish to sing in the concerts. If anyone has the slightest concern about their attendance record they should contact John Spence at membership@sheffieldphil.org.

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.

Carol Service for St. Luke's - Sunday 10 December 2017 (carol list attached)

The service will be at Sheffield Anglican Cathedral on Sunday 10 December at 2pm. There will be a short rehearsal immediately before the service at 1pm. Please come changed into concert dress with your copy of 100 Carols for Choirs in your black folder. Rachel Copley will conduct.

Station Carols - Thursday 14 December 2017 5pm to 7pm (Station Carols list attached)

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 - available on the door. There will be a short rehearsal in the parish church before the concert at 6pm. Please collect copies of 'Silent Night', 'Egypt' and 'Hail Smiling Morn' from Rachel Copley

and/or Els Pearse from Tuesday 28 November. You will also need to keep your copy of 'O Holy Night' from the City Hall concerts on Saturday 16 December, and to bring 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.

Mahler 2 Mini Tour - accommodation in Edinburgh

Please note that members intending to stay in Edinburgh on the night of Sunday 29 April 2018 will need to book their own accommodation. Members of the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus have begun to book using online websites such as <https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk> or <https://www.booking.com>. For more budget options try <https://www.airbnb.co.uk/s/Edinburgh--United-Kingdom> or <https://www.hostelbookers.com> or <https://en.directrooms.com>. Please note that we don't yet know coach pick up details.

Holy Face CDs

Please can the people who have ordered Holy Face CDs collect them tomorrow evening at rehearsal? They cost £15 each and you can pay by cash or cheque - the latter payable to Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus please as the Chorus has paid for the CDs ordered on your behalf.

Learning music at home - rehearsal tracks

We have arranged a discount for the purchase of rehearsal tracks from Choraline, at www.choraline.com. It costs £8.99 for a download, or £12.99 for a CD. Type SHEFFIELD in the discount code box on the shopping basket page for the 10% discount, or say you're a member of SPC if ordering over the telephone on 01285 644845.

For just notes (no words) you could try:

- listening to, or downloading, mp3 files of your voice part from Choralia at <http://www.choralia.net/mp3catalogue.htm>, though some people can't get on with the way these sound.
- John Fletcher's site, which uses a clarinet to emphasis the voice part you select. Registration is free for works like the Mozart that are out of copyright; check it out at <https://johnfletchermusic.org>.
- Cyberbass has a huge catalogue and is free to use online at <http://www.cyberbass.com>.
- Learn Choral Music provides free Midi files at <http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk>.

Many people find listening or singing along to the complete work, or even having it playing in the background, very helpful. The following links are all to YouTube recordings of the Mozart Requiem. The first has the music playing alongside a visual of the score, which many people really like as they can sing along to the music displayed on screen. The second is the live recording of the same performance, while the third is a Proms performance with the Scottish Youth Choir.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63jv0JcDNUg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5Y2B55nKZY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvCsjn-Wpk4>

Don't forget Georgina Hulse's very useful document about learning music at home.

The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain has produced a free online course in learning how to sight sing at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiIWQx54rdHLGxDv5s5Ovm6iCrPFI-YN9>

Rehearsal reminders

The rehearsal schedule is pinned up on the Chorus notice board, and is also available online at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>. This is Darius' website, but there is a link to it from the chorus website, on the left hand side of the members' area page.

Members should register their attendance at all rehearsals, either manually or, preferably, electronically. If present for half of the rehearsal, please make a supplementary note on the Apologies sheet, or email John Spence at membership@sheffieldphil.org, quoting Chorus Number.

Door code for King Edwards

To open the doors if you are late, please punch in 1996 (weekdays) or 1999 (weekends).

2. Ticket Sales

3. Diary dates

The following dates for the SPC official programme have been confirmed; *non-compulsory electives are shown in italics*:

Sun 10 Dec 2017 St Luke's Carol Service Cathedral. Time 2.00pm, rehearsal 1pm also cathedral

Thu 14 Dec 2017 Sing for Your Heart Sheffield Station, 5pm to 7pm

Sat 16 Dec 3pm and 7pm, Christmas Concert with Black Dyke Band, presenter BBC Radio 3's Tom Redmond

Thu 21 Dec Carol Concert at Parish Church, Tickhill, 7.30pm, rehearsal around 6pm

Sat 27 Jan 2018: Premiere of Paradise by Paul Mealor with Black Dyke Band, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Tutti rehearsal yet to be arranged but on a Monday evening in early Jan 2018, in Sheffield.

Sat 3rd Feb 2018, Mozart Requiem, Manchester Camerata, City Hall

Mon 5 February 2018: Recording of Paradise with Black Dyke Band, Sheffield

Fri 20 April 2018: After Hours concert, City Hall ballroom, programme to be arranged but will include the Brahms pieces we sang for Classical Sheffield last season.

Sun 29 April 2018 (Edinburgh), Mon 30 April 2018 (Middlesbrough) and Sat 5 May 2018 (Sheffield) Mahler Symphony 2, with Leeds Philharmonic Chorus and the Bruckner Orchester Linz

Sat 9 June 2018: Petite Messe Solennelle, with Jonathan Scott on harmonium, Nigel Gyte on piano, same soloists as we had for the Messiah. City Hall ballroom (self funded concert)

The following dates for the SPC official programme have yet to be confirmed:

Holy Face (Wilby) in Sheffield, possibly as part of Classical Sheffield Festival in 2018

4. From previous weeks

Post AGM Social Event

Thanks to everyone who stayed for the post-AGM cheese and wine social, which was most enjoyable. Very grateful thanks to our Social Events Officer Helen Kirk for organising it so well. And thank you to those who helped her set up and clear away after the event.

Message from Nigel Gyte re. post-AGM social

'Thank you so much for inviting me to tonight's cheese and wine social. I was really looking forward to seeing you all again. However, I've had a change of heart, as tomorrow I am very busy playing for ABRSM exams. On reflection, I feel an EARLY night would be better for me. I also have 6 hours of ballet exams to play for on Thursday. If anyone asks, please pass on my apologies. I am looking forward to the SPC 'Christmas Concert'. I send my best wishes to everyone, and thank you again for the kind invitation. Love from Nigel X PS. I miss working with Darius, and hearing the SPC 'sound' every Tuesday.'

Message from Peter Miles

'Just wanted to say how touched I was by the very generous presentation given to me for my work producing the promotional material etc for the Chorus. I shall of course enjoy the stuff in bottles, and certainly be using the gift card to aid us in our next theatre visit. If I'd been more prepared for the presentation on the evening then I would have given my thanks verbally to you all – but, unlike me, I was rendered quite speechless! So please convey my sincere thanks.... I stopped doing the work not because I didn't want to do it anymore but rather that I felt the work now deserved a much younger brain and approach to the task. I do hope the possible replacement person works out. My very best wishes, Peter'

Common People

About a dozen members of the chorus answered the call for singers to make a film to celebrate 50 years of BBC Radio Sheffield, and they did us proud. The fabulous results can be viewed and heard by following these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diuFUjQyG-c>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/mfgQ6cXFlv3ymcCcFdN9Wh/remaking-pulps-common-people>

Orchestra seeks string players for concert on Saturday 13 January

Sheffield Music Hub and Sheffield Chamber Choir are performing Gorecki's Symphony Number 3 at Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday 13th January at 7.30pm. Any interested string players are invited to join, in a bid to form a huge orchestra for this one off concert. Vocal Soloist will be Ella Taylor and Ian Naylor will conduct. The concert is to raise money to support young musicians. Rehearsals will be (approximately) on Thursday 11th Jan 6.30pm - 9.00pm (not compulsory) – Sheffield Music Hub HQ in Attercliffe, and Saturday 13th Jan from midday onwards – Sheffield Cathedral. To register interest please email ian.naylor@sheffield.gov.uk with your name and instrument (plus preference for Violin 1 / 2 for violinists).

Classical Sheffield seeks volunteers for Subgroups

The Chorus is a member of Classical Sheffield, which recently developed a strategic plan and a number of subgroups to help move the organisation forward - Strategic Marketing and PR, Event Planning Programming and Publicity, Finance and Fundraising, and Membership. Each group will meet three times a year; details can be found at <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/news/classical-sheffield-needs-you-to-make-our-future-happen> It would be particularly good if the Chorus could be represented on the Membership group. If you think you could give some time to this group, please contact Judith Sunderland at judith.sunderland@hotmail.co.uk. If you are interested in any of the others, please contact Steve Terry at a.classicalsheffield@gmail.com

5. For information

Come and Sing opera choruses on Saturday 24 February 2018

Nottingham Harmonic Choir invite us to 'Come and Sing' favourite opera choruses on Saturday 24 February 2018, at the Emmanuel School, Nottingham from 9.45 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. The cost is £20 (£5 for students), plus £3 if you require music in advance. Details www.nottinghamharmonic.org

John Wilson's superstar orchestra MGM tour 11 December

John Wilson's superstar orchestra returns with a new show 'A Celebration of the MGM Film Musicals' on 11 December at Sheffield City Hall.

Come and Sing Dvorak's Stabat Mater Saturday 10 February 2018

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus are presenting a 'Come and Sing Dvorak's Stabat Mater' event on Saturday 10th February and hope that some of the Chorus will join them. For further details see <http://www.leedsphil.com/>. An Early Bird discount is offered to people who book and pay by 1st December (£15 instead of £20) but you are equally welcome to just turn up on the day.

Chorister Newsletter

The latest version of the Chorister Newsletter, which lists all the choirs across the country, is now available online at <http://www.choirs.org.uk/chorister/nov2017.pdf>

Classical Sheffield

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Check out the weekly listings at <http://www.classicalsheffield.org.uk/weekly-listings>

Amazon purchases

For those who buy goods from Amazon, please use the link on the left hand side of our Members page at <http://www.sheffieldphil.org/members.php>. It's an easy way to boost funds as we get a small amount with every purchase made via this link.

Administrator email

Anne Adams can be contacted at administrator@sheffieldphil.org