

### Rehearsal reminders

Our first rehearsal of 2018 is on Tuesday 2nd January. Please remember that there has been a change to the previous schedule such that we will be rehearsing the Mozart Requiem on Tuesday 2nd January, with a consequent impact on the MAR for this concert. We will also rehearse the Paul Mealor work for the first time, so please arrive in plenty of time to collect this new music - and don't forget to bring your Christmas music back, in its plastic folder and with the markings rubbed out.

Next week we will continue rehearsing the Mealor and will probably begin the Rossini; however, the details may change so keep your eye on the rehearsal schedule, via Darius' website at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>; this link is a permanent feature on the [Rehearsal](#) page of our own website.

### Message from our President Rachel Copley

*'With my thanks for all the wonderful singing, in many and varied venues, over the Christmas period, and my very good wishes to all at the 'Phil', for a happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year, with exciting and enjoyable music making in 2018. Rachel Copley. President.'*

### French Tour

The tour is planned from Thursday 12 to Tuesday 17 July 2018, and bass Matthew Morgan is starting to make the arrangements on behalf of the chorus members who signed up. Please watch out for the first of a number of emails from Matthew early in the new year, and respond to his questions and requests as quickly as you can. In addition, a page dedicated to the French Tour will shortly be added to the Members Area of the chorus website.

**If there is anyone who signed up who is now unable to go on the tour, or anyone who didn't sign up who would like to be included, please let Matthew know as soon as possible at [matthew@goconnect.org.uk](mailto:matthew@goconnect.org.uk), as arrangements will very soon get to the stage where firm bookings must be made.**

### Thanks to everyone who sang at Tickhill on 21 Dec 2017

The concert went very well, with an appreciative audience whose entrance fees are likely to have covered the costs, which is great. Thank you to all who sang and who helped or was involved on the night, but especially to Rachel Copley who conducted with her usual wonderful cheerfulness, and to Janet Bower who organised everything at the Tickhill end and hosted a smashing party afterwards.

### Membership Cards and Subscriptions (attachment)

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription fee and returned the attached form, which all members are asked to complete 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, bringing 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.

### **New website**

The new 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 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. 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.

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

**Anne Adams can be contacted at** [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)