

Weekly update for w/c Monday 29 January 2018

Rehearsal reminders

Tomorrow Tuesday 30 January is the compulsory conductor's piano rehearsal for the Mozart, with Jean-Claude Picard. Please be in your places ready to sing at 7pm sharp; the rehearsal will finish around 9.15pm.

There is no rehearsal on Tuesday 6 February because we will have been recording the Mealor the evening before. The following 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.

No sight singing session tomorrow evening

Georgina Hulse will not be running a sight singing session tomorrow evening. However, the sessions, which are open to any member of the chorus, will re-commence next week. They run from 6.30 to 6.55 each Tuesday evening, ie, immediately before the rehearsal, in the small room where Maggie runs her sessions.

Mealor concert

Thanks to everyone who sang at the concert on Saturday evening; it went down very well indeed. Nicholas Childs said afterwards that it sounded absolutely wonderful and that the band had really enjoyed performing with us. A couple of RNCM staff said it was '*wonderful*' and '*very moving*'. The sell-out concert was recorded by BBC Radio 3 and will be broadcast on Wed 31 January at 7.30pm. The recorded concert will then be available for a while on the BBC Radio 3 website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09ppd2x>. The same website features an interesting interview with composer Paul Mealor, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04dqk4q>. Twitter comments:

- '*You were fantastic!!*' (Paul Mealor, in answer to a 'thank you' tweet from us)
- '*Fantastic premiere of my new work #Paradise at @RNCMvoice Festival of Brass with the brilliant @SheffPhilChorus and the amazing @blackdyke - so many wonderful emails and comments from the audience. Don't think the festival has seen that many performers on stage before! #epic*' (Paul Mealor)
- '*...Huge thanks to you and the chorus for a fantastic performance of the Mealor last night! So glad you enjoyed it!*' (Harriet Lane, concert manager)
- '*A fantastic day yesterday at the 2018 RNCM Brass Band Festival. Thanks to @TheFaireyBand @WardleYouth @TredegarBand @GlennVL Junior RNCM @blackdyke @SheffPhilChorus (& of course @fodensband for Friday night). It was a privilege to hear you all play*' RNCM
- '*Really enjoyed last nights concert @RNCMvoice part of the Brass Band Festival weekend! First time seeing @blackdyke perform & loved @PaulMealor premiere involving @SheffPhilChorus*' (audience member)
- '*It was brilliant one of the best concerts I've heard! love Black Dyke Band*' (audience member)

Arrangements for the Mozart concert on Saturday 3 February 2018

Rehearsal. There will be a compulsory rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert, from 2.30 to 5.30pm. Please sign in using the electronic system we use at rehearsal – this will be situated on the production corridor. Please be in your places ready to sing by 2.30 prompt. The seating plan will be circulated in due course and copies available on the day.

Dressing rooms. Unfortunately 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 into concert dress. Ladies will be in the Vincent Harris room, while gents will share the Barbirolli room. Members who have difficulty with stairs may use Dressing Room 1.

Meals. 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!

Concert Dress: Please adhere to the SPC Dress Code, which you will find on the notice board and on the chorus website at [Members Area / Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#)

Going on stage: Please line up ready to go onto the platform 15 minutes before the start time. Please try your best to line up on just one side of the stairway, leaving a clear path for orchestra colleagues to pass along with their instruments. There will be a steward at the platform entrance to help us file on, but also try to keep an eye on how colleagues are filing on the opposite side, so we can keep things even. Remember that folders are carried onto the platform under the outward facing arm (right arm stage right, left arm stage left), and that you should not take bottles of water on stage or wave at the audience. Please follow our Concert Stage Procedure which is on the chorus website at [Members Area / Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#)

Programmes: You will need to go round to the front of the City Hall to purchase your programme as the City Hall staff are unfortunately not able to sell them back stage.

Parking: Chorus members are able to get a car parking voucher from the City Hall Box Office, enabling them to pay just £3.50 for the full day 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.

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

Ticket sales: Latest figures show that 894 tickets have been sold. We usually get around 300 on the door, so there are likely to be over 1200 on the night. The Halle/City Hall target is 1300, so please do what you can to spread the word and get friends, family and colleagues to the concert. The financial break-even ticket sales number is 1892.

Meal recording Monday 5 February 2018 - chorus start time 7pm

The recording will take place in the City Hall on the evening of Monday 5 February 2018. The chorus will be required on the City Hall stage from 7pm to 9pm, though if the recording goes well we will be released earlier. Choir dress is not required so there are no dressing rooms; please gather on stage leaving bags etc on the organ seats, but please be as quiet as you can. This information is listed on the chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#)

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

We have a committee meeting on Tuesday 6 February, 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.

Mahler 2 Mini-Tour - revised date for Middlesbrough concert

A separate email was sent to inform members that 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. The date for the Edinburgh concert is still the afternoon of Sunday 29 April.

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.

The organisers are extremely apologetic about their error but can do nothing about the dates, which are fixed with the visiting orchestra and the venues. This is not a situation that we would wish any of us to be in; it is not of our making yet we have little choice but to deal with it as sensibly as we can. We will need to gather a singing list for the Middlesbrough concert, while fully appreciating that many chorus members who have organised their lives around the Monday date may find it very difficult to accommodate the new date. Indeed, those who work will have already arranged a day off for Monday and may find the Tuesday impossible to arrange.

Unfortunately, to add to the difficulties, we are still unsure of the capacity of the newly-built stage at Middlesbrough Town Hall; Darius and John Spence are visiting on 14 February so they can decide how many singers it can realistically accommodate. 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.

Details about collecting the numbers for the Middlesbrough concert will be in the next weekly update. This gives everyone time to think about their personal circumstances and how they might respond. It also enables anyone who was about to book a hotel in Edinburgh to have another think about whether to now do so, and allows any who have booked to unbook if they wish. Of course, it is likely that many of those who had planned to stay the night in Edinburgh will decide to continue with those plans, whether they sing in Middlesbrough or not. We will, of course, book a coach to bring those who stay in Edinburgh back to Leeds/Sheffield on Monday 30th April. This means we are going to have to collect information about Edinburgh as well as Middlesbrough.

We were very sorry to have to circulate this bad news on the evening before the Brass Band Festival concert in Manchester; the fact that we all had such a great time nonetheless is a measure of the generous spirit of chorus members, something of which we should all be really proud.

St Luke's Service

Thank you to everyone who turned out to sing at the St Luke's service on such a bad day - a number of chorus members spent quite some hours trying to get there, so whether you succeeded or you didn't, many many thanks. We have received a very nice letter from the folk at St Luke's, which is pinned on the Notice Board. It makes clear just how important this service is to the people who attend. Thanks to Rachel Copley for making the arrangements and for all the work involved in conducting on the day - the trip from Tickhill can't have been so great! We have accepted the invitation to take part again next year, on Sunday 9 December 2018.

Membership Subscriptions to be paid by 21 February 2018

Almost three quarters of chorus members have paid their subscription fee and returned the form; thank you. Please can the remaining members pay their subs and complete the form, 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 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](#). Members can pay the whole amount in cash or by cheque or bank transfer, or pay regular instalments via direct debit or standing order. Concessions are readily granted by the Finance Officer in order that no one is excluded from membership for financial reasons.

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, which should take no longer than 30 minutes, 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,

especially as we have not been able to take part in recent events, so please put the date in your diaries if you are able attend. Anne Adams and Steve Terry will be there as Trustees of Classical Sheffield, so you won't be on your own - and it should be an enjoyable social event shared by the Sheffield classical music community.

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](#).

New: *NCEM Young Composer's Award in association with BBC Radio 3*

New: *Extras wanted for production of Evita in Thurlstone*

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