

Urgent request from Rachel Fright – see below.

Weekly update for Sunday 24 February 2019

Rehearsal reminders

On Tuesday 26 February 2019 we will rehearse the Classical Sheffield repertoire.

Darius has updated the rehearsal schedule, [please click here to go directly to the schedule](#), there's also a link on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#). Darius encourages everyone to attend all rehearsals, but asks anyone who isn't able to sing in a concert to let him know via their Voice Rep (see the Chorus website at [Member's Area / Chorus Contacts](#); there's a password reminder at the end of each weekly update).

Please don't forget your membership card for swiping in. No need to send apologies under the new system, but if you do have anything to report please contact your Voice Rep.

Rehearsing at home

Please find attached Chair Paul Henstridge's updated rehearsal notes, which are also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#) (password reminder at the end of each update). In the same place are links to practice recordings of the B minor Mass and the Schoenberg, and to YouTube recordings of the Bach and Schoenberg and most of the other pieces we are singing at the Classical Sheffield concert. Those who haven't sung the Schoenberg before will find the links especially useful!

Darius has stressed the importance of practicing the Bach at home, explaining that he had had to argue quite strongly to convince the Halle management that we could sing it well and that our performance will be 'quality checked' for future reference. There is a link to a recording of each section of the mass with on-screen score, and to a range of practice recordings including [the Choralia website](#) (here's a link [directly to the B minor mass](#)).

Urgent request from Rachel Fright

Rachel has asked there is anyone who isn't singing in the Classical Sheffield concert who would be willing to act as her page turner, as it's quite tricky turning over for some of the pieces she is playing. She says she is good at giving a clear nod at the right time! Please think about volunteering to help Rachel out if you are unable to sing but are free on Sunday 10 March at 5pm – and hopefully for rehearsal at 2.30pm. Alternatively you might know a willing family member or friend who could do this. Please email Anne (email at end of this update). Thank you

Please help to sell tickets for our ballroom concert!!!!!!

Only a handful of tickets have been sold for our concert on Sunday 10 March at 5pm in the City Hall ballroom. Classical Sheffield has distributed 20,000 brochures city-wide and via groups and is running a press and social media campaign. We need to do our part, so please try to do one or more of the following:

- Get your family and friends to buy tickets for our concert on Sunday 10 March – they are a steal at just £5 (under 18s FREE). They (or you on their behalf?) can buy tickets from the City Hall box office or the [Classical Sheffield website](#).
- Support other Sheffield music makers by buying tickets for other concerts – especially those featuring young people and/or young composers from Sheffield; our talented young music makers need and deserve as much support as we can muster! Concerts are only £5 (under 18s FREE) and even better value are the Day and Weekend Passes. Get tickets from the [Classical Sheffield website](#).

- Publicise the festival as much as you can. Give friends and family copies of the brochures provided the other week – just ask if you would like more copies. Or spread the word via social media – ‘like’ the Festival Facebook page and/or click that you’re attending the event, and Tweet like mad if you use Twitter. Share the fantastic promotional trailer, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWPWxhIbKn4>

Scroll down for further details of the arrangements for this concert.

Message from Philip Collin – hear more Bach!

Philip, who takes our rehearsals now and again when Darius is otherwise engaged, has organised a performance of the St Matthew Passion on 16th March at St John's Church, Park, Sheffield S2 5PU. He has brought together singers and musicians from around the country especially for this event. This performance has been many months in preparation, with members of the choir - who will also be the soloists, as would have been the case in Bach's time - researching and sharing ideas about interpretation and style in correspondence before bringing it all together in rehearsals in London in Sheffield. The venue is a beautiful 19th Century church with a concrete extension built in sympathy with the nearby Park Hill flats, very close to the City Centre and a very short walk from Hyde Park tram station. The performance will start at 6.30pm, with an interval during which refreshments will be served. Price is £10 on the door (£5 for under-18s and unwaged).

It is very unusual to have all Bach's Big Three in performance in the same city over just four weeks – the Bach choir's St John Passion at the cathedral on Saturday 6 March at 7.30pm, the above St Matthew Passion on 16 March at 6.30pm, then our B minor Mass in the City Hall on 6 April – a veritable Bach-Fest!

Reminder - Subscriptions and membership cards

If you haven't paid yet please can you do so before the end of February? Unfortunately anyone who hasn't paid by then will not be able to sing in our concerts.

There are a few, particularly new members, who are waiting for their membership cards to be printed. Graham apologises for the delay and asks that these folk sign in manually until their cards appear. Around five members have paid but not collected their new cards – please see Graham to pick them up. Many thanks.

Reminder - bring your own mug or cup if you can

The average lifespan of a single-use cup is 13 minutes, and due to the plastic content less than 1% get recycled. A number of people already bring their own cup; do bring yours if you can. Email Rachel Rowlands if you'd like a special bamboo cup with lid, 12 oz £7.99, 14 oz £8.99. rachelrow@yahoo.co.uk. Many thanks

Reminder - please support Sheffield's young composers!!!!

Classical Sheffield is running a Crowdfunding campaign to support the creation and performance of new works by young people from Sheffield, commissioned for the March Classical Weekend. Please consider a small donation if you are able, and if not please share the link with family and friends who might be able to contribute.

<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/invest-sheffield-music-makers>

Reminder - May Midgley book

Get your copy of this fascinating book featuring the letters of May Midgley as she sailed round the world with the likes of Edward Elgar and a choir from Yorkshire. A great read and well worth the £6.50 price ticket, with £1.50 per copy for choir funds. See Penny Webster at rehearsal.

Arrangements for Classical Sheffield concert Sunday 10 March 2019

The concert will be held in the City Hall ballroom from 17.00 to 18.00. The compulsory piano rehearsal is at KES on Tuesday 5 March 2019. The on-the-day tutti rehearsal is likely to be in the main hall (NOT the ballroom) from 14.30 to 15.30 – confirmation to follow.

We will be able to get changed and leave bags no earlier than 16.30, as the ballroom and dressing rooms will be in use by other artists (see below). Rachel and the soloists will be having a short rehearsal in the ballroom from 12.30 to 13.00, but we won't have access to dressing rooms at that time so please don't arrive early as other groups will be using them.

Please have music in black folders and wear full concert dress – check the details on the chorus website if you aren't sure, it would be a tragedy not to be allowed to sing after all the work we've put in. Details at [Members Area / Concert arrangements / stage procedure and dress code](#).

We will be given a place to get changed and leave bags – details to follow. However, the turnaround between the 60-minute concerts is only 30 minutes – and after our concert it's the Sheffield Academy chamber orchestra with members of the Halle orchestra so it will get very crowded very quickly! It won't be at all like a standard ballroom concert, and it will almost certainly be advantageous to arrive already dressed in chorus uniform.

In the ballroom that day will be youngsters from Sheffield Music Academy's chamber orchestra at 11.00, Sheffield Symphony Orchestra's 'animal music' workshop for families at 14.00, then Global Soundtracks at 15.30, featuring Haymanot Tesfa (voice and krar) and Arian Sadr (percussion). After our concert the youngsters re-assemble with members of the Halle to play Grieg's Piano Concerto No 1 and the Brahms Symphony No 1. Please consider staying to support these young musicians – tickets are only £5. After that you could move on to hear (or sing if you've volunteered) massed voices perform the Beethoven 9 in the cathedral – a great way to end the day! Tickets available on the [Classical Sheffield website](#).

Advance notice - Saturday 6 April 2019 - Bach's Mass in B minor (587 tickets sold)

Venue is the City Hall from 19.00 to 21.00. One of our Sheffield International Concert Season concerts, with the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Andrew Griffiths.

Compulsory 'on-the-day' rehearsal will be from 14.30 to 17.30 in the City Hall; please make sure you are in your seats ready to start at 14.30 on the dot.

Conductor Andrew Griffith is very keen to rehearse this with us thoroughly, so he is coming up by train and staying the night for both piano rehearsals. The first is on Tuesday 26 March 2019, the second on Tuesday 2 April 2019, both at KES. Anyone who has to miss one of these will need good overall attendance and permission to sing in the concert. If you miss both piano rehearsals you won't be able to sing.

Tickets are [available via the City Hall website](#) or from the Box Office. Schools will shortly be offered a reduction via an email voucher. Ticket sales so far = 587 (sale rate around 5 per week), usual on-the-day sales around 300, target 1300, capacity 2000.

Advance notice - Sun 9 Jun 2019 – The Holy Face – a self funded concert we need to promote this ourselves!

Venue is the City Hall at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. With the Black Dyke Band, Halifax Choral Society, the Yorkshire Youth Choir and four soloists, we will sing Wilby's *The Holy Face* and Paul Mealor's *Paradise*, and Darius will play Wilby's organ concerto *Cinema*.

The on-the-day rehearsal will be from 11.00 to 14.00 in the City Hall; please be in your seats ready to start rehearsal at 11.00 on the dot.

Tickets [available via SIV website](#) or at the City Hall Box Office. £5 reduction for anyone who presents their Xmas concert or Bach ticket or proof of booking and under 18 tickets FREE! Schools will be offered a significant reduction via an email voucher.

Rehearsal attendance new procedure – see chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)

Upcoming classical concerts are on the Chorus website, [Members Area / For information](#)

Upcoming Singing Opportunities at [Members' Area / For information / Singing Opportunities](#)

Diary Dates See the Chorus website at [Members Area / Diary dates](#).

Chorus website

Information about concert arrangements, future dates, our official stage procedure, Darius' rehearsal schedule, re-auditions, where to get rehearsal tracks etc. can be found on the chorus website, in the Member's Area in particular. The website is available at <http://sheffieldphil.org> or via a Google search. If taken to an error page it is likely that your computer or laptop has stored the old website in its memory (cache) and you should clear it by pressing REFRESH, or F5 on your PC keyboard. Alternatively 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 please contact Anne Adams in the first instance, and she will inform the webmasters Matthew Morgan and Bill Best. The chorus user name is member and the password is dariu5; these are for chorus members only so please don't share them.

Chair Paul Henstridge chairman@sheffieldphil.org

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org