



**Patron: Samuel West**  
**Music Director: Darius Battiwalla**  
Registered Charity No. 518073

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

### LOOKING BACK ...

Our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary season was a triumph for the Chorus:

- Great concerts – every conductor we worked with last season had nothing but praise for the Chorus's work, the recurring theme being that our 100 percent commitment, responsiveness, and enthusiasm for the music always shone through.
- Consistently good reviews.
- Several BBC broadcasts on radio and TV
- Lots of excellent coverage in the press, on radio and the internet, thanks to our fantastic Marketing and Publicity team led by Rachel Mallaband.
- Increasingly close links and collaboration with the Hallé and Sheffield International Venues.
- Membership of the Chorus passed two hundred for the first time for many years, and included no fewer than six new tenors. Huge thanks to the team who organized the very successful introduction to singing workshops – Sally Turnbull, Sue Pennington and Ros Hunt. The workshops really made a difference to our recruitment offer and it is hoped we can continue to run them as a regular part of our recruitment strategy.
- Our successful Big Lottery Awards for All bid, enabling us to fund our Singclude project, to improve access for singers with severe mobility impairments.
- Further opportunities to help other charities with fundraising, and opportunities to make music in smaller venues.
- Our Gala 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert and party, with the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and her Consort as our guests of honour, and our great friends from Philharmonischer Chor Bochum sharing the festivities with us.





**Patron: Samuel West**  
**Music Director: Darius Battiwalla**  
Registered Charity No. 518073

## LOOKING FORWARD ...

A fascinating and challenging season lies ahead of us:

- Three very different programmes for performance in the City Hall, one promoted by the Chorus, as well as two performances of our annual Christmas Concert.
- A most exciting opportunity to lead and participate in Alight – part of Music Nation, a Countdown event for the London 2012 Festival, the finale of the Cultural Olympiad, on behalf of the Yorkshire region of the UK, including brand new commissions, a concert promoted by the Chorus, and participation in the Alight evening event which will be the culmination of the weekend's festival.
- The official launch of Singclude.
- The launch of the Friends of Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, which will make a huge difference to our fundraising potential and therefore to the long-term sustainability of the Chorus.
- Continuing efforts to recruit new members, raise the profile of the Chorus, attract new audiences, and maintain our reputation for a high standard of musicianship in all our performances.

## HUGE AND SINCERE THANKS TO ...

- Music Director Darius Battiwalla, Accompanist Nigel Gyte, Voice Coach Maggie McDonald, and regular director of our smaller performances (and Chorus President) Rachel Copley. We are very conscious that rehearsals and performances don't just happen, and that all these, our "professionals", put in a massive amount of work behind the scenes to ensure they are well prepared to lead and nurture our continued musical development.
- Marketing and Publicity team – Rachel Mallaband, Peter Miles, Kirsty Christer, Kate Reece, Ann Garbett, who have done a fantastic job this year and set a new standard for our promotional efforts.
- All the Officers, Members' Reps and Section Reps, who without exception work tirelessly for the benefit of all of us. Special thanks to our Administrator Janet Bower, who against the backdrop of a particularly difficult year, has kept the show on the road with efficiency and good humour – hers is one of the jobs which only gets noticed if it isn't done, and involves close attention to those small but crucial details which are the difference between success and failure, order and chaos; Janet has not failed us!
- Each and every member of the Chorus, many of whom not only give their all in their singing but also turn up to help with all kinds of tasks which wouldn't otherwise get done – selling Chorus books, second-hand music and CDs, staffing stalls to promote the Chorus, and doing crazy things such as singing their way round a running track as part of By Any Means!



**Patron: Samuel West**  
**Music Director: Darius Battiwalla**  
Registered Charity No. 518073

- John Hyde and the Friends Steering Committee, who have brought us to the point of being able to launch The Friends of Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus.
- Jenny Swann as she stands down from the post of Education and Outreach Officer, who has laid some good foundations on which we will be able to build in the future.
- Helen Kirk who, in her first year as Social Events Officer, arranged a marvellous Christmas event around our two concerts, and co-ordinated the fantastic Gala Celebration of the Chorus's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, once again supported by a splendid team of volunteers, and staff from the City Hall.
- The team of volunteers who have undertaken training to operate the stair-climber, and those who are going to train – Singclude is a pioneering venture and we are so grateful to those who have come forward to help with it.
- The staff at Springs Academy for making us so welcome and helping us in so many practical ways.
- The staff at the Arts Tower and City Hall, particularly at times when things have been somewhat stressful. The City Hall staff looked after us particularly well for our 75<sup>th</sup> celebration, but there have been numerous occasions when someone has put themselves out to be helpful and supportive.
- Trisha Cooper and Sara Unwin, who in various ways have supported and promoted us, and continue to do so, for which we are truly grateful.
- The Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Dr Sylvia Dunkley, who over a number of years has been a great supporter and who, in her Mayoral year, has chosen to get involved in some of our projects and has kindly invited us to be part of hers – we are indeed fortunate to have a Lord Mayor who is so committed to and passionate about music and choral singing!
- The BBC for inviting us to make various recordings, and for selecting us to perform at the Golden Jubilee of Coventry Cathedral in 2012.
- Our Patron, Samuel West, who takes a genuine and personal interest in Chorus activities and gave such a magnificent performance in Walton's Henry V to round off our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season.

As we enter our next 75 years, despite many challenges, I feel confident that the Chorus is in excellent shape, with a very strong team of volunteers ensuring its smooth running, and strong commitment from everyone to its continued success.

Julie Smethurst  
August 2011