

Weekly update for w/c Monday 11 December 2017

PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION BELOW ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS, AND IN SECTION 1B FOR THOSE SINGING AT THE STATION AND AT TICKHILL

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

1a. New this week

Rehearsal reminders

Tomorrow night is the final Tuesday rehearsal of the Christmas music, led by Darius, with Rachel on the piano. Note that in 100 Carols for Choirs the First Noel is page 323 and Jesus Child is page 110. The rehearsal will end at 9.15pm.

Arrangements for Christmas carol concerts on Saturday 16 December (attachment)

- **Rehearsal.** There will be a compulsory 2-hour rehearsal at 12 noon on the afternoon of the concert. 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 12 noon; seating plan attached.
- **MAR** Darius is of the firm opinion that, because of the short rehearsal schedule for the Christmas concerts, two rehearsals (ie 50%) is simply not enough rehearsal time and he is not prepared to give special approval to members whose MAR is 50%. If anyone has the slightest concern about their attendance record they should contact John Spence at membership@sheffieldphil.org.
- **Dressing rooms.** 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 into concert dress. Ladies will be in the Vincent Harris room (hanging rails, mirrors, water), with a bit more space in Dressing Room 3, while gents will share the Barbirolli room (hanging rails, mirrors, water). 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:** Remember that for this concert, gentlemen generally wear brightly coloured bow ties, while ladies may wear Christmas earrings and/or brooches etc, turning on those which have flashing lights after the interval. Please note that these are the only permissible variations from the SPC Dress Code, which you will find on our website and on the notice board.
- **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 procedure; details on our website.
- **Folders:** If you're struggling to fit the music under the rather tight cords in your black folder, wind some black hat elastic several times round the spine of the folder. This makes it easier to organise the various bits of music without damage. It is available from any haberdashery department eg John Lewis. It doesn't show on stage.
- **Sherry and mince pies** will be served in the production corridor during the evening interval. It will be very crowded so please (a) don't queue at the table end, move down to collect sherry and mince pies from along the length of the table, and (b) move away from the table once you have collected your sherry and mince pie. Helen's helpers will be

outside the upper seating area at rehearsal tomorrow evening, to collect your donation and to sell raffle tickets; the lucky winner will receive a beautifully iced Christmas cake made by Janet Bower. Helen would greatly appreciate help with setting up and clearing away - please sign up so that she knows who to expect.

- **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.
- **Stage decorations:** Soprano Ann Garbett, who always does a marvellous job decorating the stage for the concerts, would appreciate a few volunteers to help dismantle it all afterwards. This has to be a rapid process as the crew start to pull everything down the second we leave the stage! Volunteers to Ann Garbett or Anne Adams please. Thank you.
- **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.

Louis Knapton Our old and respected former 2nd Bass Louis Knapton is now confined to a wheelchair and is quite immobile and, since his wife died a couple of years ago, he doesn't get out very much. He would very much like to come to the afternoon performance of the Christmas Concert. Will someone please volunteer to pick him up from his home in time to bring him down to the City Hall and return him home afterwards? Louis lives at 36 Whirlowdale Crescent, Millhouses, Sheffield S7 2NB and his phone number is 0114 236 1515. Suitable arrangements for the provision of a wheelchair at the City Hall are presently being made. Please advise John Spence membership@sheffieldphil.org or ring 07711 846571 if you can help.

Calypso Carol on Classic FM this week!

Each year Classic FM choose five carols from submissions sent in by choirs from across the country, and one of the carols from our *Awake Arise!* CD has been chosen again! You may remember we were successful with Joy to the World in 2015. This time it's Calypso Carol, which will be played on Wednesday 13 December just after 6.30pm. The other selections, also to be played at 6.30, were vOx Chamber Choir - Coventry Carol (Monday), Reading Phoenix Choir - In the Bleak Mid-Winter (Tuesday), Glasgow Cathedral Choir - Away in a Manger (Thursday) and Jubilate Ladies Choir - Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas (Friday).

This is great news and excellent PR for the Chorus, so please spread the word using whatever avenues are open to you. Comments from Classic FM: *'Please thank all those that entered – we've been really impressed by the standard.'* *'What a very strong set of candidates we had this year – it's been a real pleasure to listen to them!'*

Classical Sheffield Carol Sing on Thursday 21 December 6.30 to 7pm

Classical Sheffield invites anyone who is free, to sing carols outside the Town Hall next to the Christmas tree, conducted by Robert Webb, from 6.30 to 7pm. You'll need 100 Carols for Choirs. Please register your intention to sing at <https://goo.gl/forms/8dPHZ52NGUYEoTCw2>

Message from Kirsty Christer

Kirsty sent a very nice Thank You card which is pinned on the Notice Board. We gave Kirsty two David Mellor candle holders and she says: *'I was very surprised and touched last night to receive the thoughtful gift. The candle holders are absolutely gorgeous and exactly what I would have chosen for myself - thank you very much! It's been a pleasure to look after the website, and I'll carry on tweeting! Lots of luck for the Christmas concert - I'll be sorry to miss it this year but looking forward to our musical adventures next year! Best wishes and a very merry Christmas, Kirsty.'*

Mahler 2 Mini Tour

Please note that the promoter has yet to confirm the numbers that will be able to sing at Middlesbrough, where the stage is smaller than at the other two venues. Members intending to stay in Edinburgh on the night of Sunday 29 April 2018 will need to book their own accommodation, which members of the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus have begun to do using online

websites such as <https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk> or <https://www.booking.com>. Please note that we don't yet know coach pick up details.

1b. Important reminders

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.

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

No concert dress for this one - come well wrapped up and feel free to wear Santa hats, red scarves, Christmas jumpers, flashing ear rings or whatever. All carols are in 100 Carols for Choirs, apart from Egypt and Hail Smiling Morn which are on sheets. Paul Henstridge will lead.

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. Please note that the photo in the attachment shows two 56s; Janet's is the one with the blue door.

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*:

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

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'

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

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

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