

**NB. Rehearsal schedule incorrect – we are rehearsing After Hours as well as carols tomorrow evening! – NB see attached note from John Spence concerning the significance of this change to the Minimum Attendance Requirements (MARs).**

**All invited to cheese and wine social at 9pm, after the AGM. Do come!**

**See below for note re apologies.**

**Weekly update for w/c Monday 19 November 2018**

### **Rehearsal reminders**

Tomorrow evening the rehearsal will be in the Upper School as usual. We will be rehearsing for the After Hours and Christmas concerts as in previous weeks and not just the carols. The rehearsal will end early to enable us to hold the AGM and the post-AGM social.

If you would like Georgina to hold a note-bashing session for the After Hours concert, let her know and she will run one next week, Tuesday 27 November at 6.30pm. Georgina's next sight reading session will be on 11 December.

Links to Chair Paul Henstridge's rehearsal notes, and to YouTube recordings and practice tapes for all the After Hours concert pieces and the B Minor Mass, are on the Chorus website in the usual place - [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#) (password reminder at the end of this update). The Christmas carol list sent out last week is on the same page, together with a [link to the running order which is on Darius' website](#).

### **Reminder and message from Helen Kirk**

The 82nd Annual General Meeting will be held tomorrow evening Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 8.30pm, after a shorter-than-usual rehearsal, at King Edward VII Upper School, Glossop Road, Sheffield S10. The papers are available in the Members' Area of the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org / Members Area / Official Documents and Minutes / AGM>

The AGM on 20 November will be followed by our post-AGM social event. This is an opportunity to relax and chat with chorus members, and is an occasion that many members really enjoy. Wine and fruit juice, cheese and nibbles will be available.

Message from Social Secretary Helen Kirk: *'Please remember the cheese and wine party after the AGM; I hope that many of you will be able to join us. Thank you to all who have already given a donation. If you still wish to contribute Richard Salt has kindly offered to collect money before the rehearsal. I imagine that, like me, many of you will have sat close to and communicated with people for a considerable time but whose names you still don't know and now feel too embarrassed to ask. I am taking labels for you to write your name on and wear throughout the evening, I will leave them near the signing in table. Thank you for your support, Helen'*

### **Arrangements for After Hours concert – first edition**

The concert is on Friday 30 November at 21.15 in the City Hall ballroom, and will last until no later than 22.00. There will be a rehearsal in the ballroom from 16.45 to 18.00. Darius realizes this may be difficult for some but please do your best; we have to stop rehearsing at 18.00 because the sound can be heard in the main hall where the pre-concert talk will have begun. This gives people who have bought tickets for the main concert plenty of time to get upstairs and into their seats. Those who have brought a packed tea may eat it in the ballroom and/or dressing rooms.

We will be singing from the ballroom staging, and as the concert is so short there won't be any seating. The staging will be organized by James Oliver, who will probably help us to rehearse

our entry and exit at 18.00. As you know, James is new to this so please bear with him while he finds his feet. The Stage Manager for the main concert will be on hand to help.

Unfortunately we received a complaint following our last concert, ie that a small number of chorus members moved into unauthorised areas and used fire exits to leave the building. We are pretty easy to spot in our uniforms and/or with bags etc, so please stick to the prescribed areas as much as you can so that we don't compromise the City Hall's fire safety arrangements and make life difficult for front of house and technical staff. This is especially important for this concert, when our usual routes to the ballroom are out of bounds (see below). Many thanks.

Entry to the City Hall is via the stage door, which is down a set of steps round the back on the right hand side. The door is usually open but if not please ring the bell and it will be opened by the stage door staff.

Unusually the production corridor, which is where we usually sign in, will be out of bounds as it will be very crowded due to the size of the visiting orchestra. This means we will not be able to use the usual staircase to get to and from the ballroom. Please use the goods lift near the stage door instead – there should be signs up but if not just ask the stage door staff. It is most important that we only use the stage door and goods lift to access the ballroom, so please don't go anywhere else.

Chorus dressing rooms will be the North and South halls on either side of the ballroom; mirrors, some hanging space, bins and drinking water will be provided. Please do not use dressing room 1 as we are only authorized to use this when we are singing in the main hall.

The toilets at basement level will be available for us to use from 16.00; we are asked not to try to access the concert hall toilets as these remain locked until front of house staff arrive for the main concert.

The signing in desk will be situated on a corridor outside the North or South Hall – please keep an eye out for it.

The usual arrangements regarding car parking vouchers will apply, enabling you to pay a reduced rate for a 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 that the voucher is only valid at the Rockingham Street car park.

Please take your usual sensible approach to reduce the risk of accidents, for example:

- not using breakable vessels in dressing rooms
- storing and carrying hot drinks safely
- taking only cold bottled drinks on stage during rehearsal
- no drinks on stage at all during the performance
- keeping belongings out of thoroughfares
- taking care when using the stairs and steps to the stage

In the event of an emergency, a continuous alarm will be sounded and we will be directed out of the building to either the war memorial on Barker's Pool, or to Devonshire Green.

**These instructions will be repeated in next week's update, with any additions or amendments clearly marked.**

**Collection for mince pies and sherry starts next week**

Helen Kirk reminds us that she will need to start collecting donations for the sherry and mince pies from next week, Tuesday 27th November. Helen says *'These are traditionally provided to the chorus and band in the interval of the evening carol concert. Janet Bower is once again generously donating one of her fabulous Christmas cakes to raffle. Tickets will be available to buy at £1 each, again from next Tuesday.'*

### **Request for help with raffle prizes for Tickhill**

Message from Social Secretary Helen Kirk: *'I am organising the raffle at the Tickhill concert and wonder if anyone feels that they could donate a prize; we only need a couple. The proceeds help to fund the concert, with any excess paid to Alzheimer's Research UK. Thank you for your support. Helen'*. The first prize is another of Janet Bower's super cakes, and we usually have a bottle of wine and a large box of chocolates for the other two prizes – but anything suitable will be gratefully accepted!

### **Please sign up for Christmas elective events**

Tomorrow evening Anne Adams will have the sign-up sheets for our Christmas elective events, so please check your diaries and sign up for as many of them as you can. The events are all great fun in their different ways; here are the dates so you can check in advance:

- Wed 5 Dec 19.15: Carols in the Millennium Gallery, 20 minutes, refreshments provided for chorus from 18.00.
- Sun 9 Dec 14.00: St Luke's Carol Service, Anglican cathedral. Rehearsal 13.00
- Wed 19 Dec 16.15 to 16.30: Carols at the railway station
- Thu 20 Dec 19.30: Carol Concert at Tickhill Parish Church, rehearsal time to be confirmed but probably 18.00 or 18.30

### **Thank you ladies - please return your music!**

Many thanks to the sopranos and altos who sang at the Classical Sheffield launch event on 15 November. It sounded wonderful, and received very positive feedback. Thanks to Rachel for conducting with her usual encouraging and enjoyable mix of enthusiasm and professionalism. Please rub out your markings and hand the music in to Anne Adams tomorrow evening.

### **Members who sang Durufle Requiem with Sheffield Bach Choir**

Please can you check that you don't have a copy of the Durufle as Liz Buxton is missing one. If you have it please return it via Anne Adams – Liz promises she'll be pleased rather than cross!

### **Request for Basses and Tenors to sing the Brahms German Requiem**

Sheffield Bach Choir is looking for 4 tenors and 4 basses to join them for a concert on Saturday 5th October 2019 in Sheffield Cathedral, performing the Brahms Requiem (sung in German) and the Brahms motets *Warum ist das licht gegeben dem Mühseligen* and *Geistliches Lied*. Rehearsals will start after the summer break on September 2nd, 2019 and on the following Mondays up to the concert. There will be an afternoon rehearsal on the day of the concert. **Please note that there will also be two rehearsals on January 7th and January 14th 2019.** Rehearsals will be in the Cemetery Road Baptist Church at 7.30 pm. Access is on Napier Street. Tenors and basses who would like to sing please contact Nigel Wright.

### **Reminder - Bochum trip February 2019**

So far 19 members have signed up to sing Messiah on 7th February in Bochum and they are chorus numbers 103, 110, 132, 151, 200, 225, 229, 301, 305, 306, 308, 342, 347, 509, 604, 609, 700, 701 & 806. **If anyone wanting to go thinks that they are missing from this list**

**please contact Graham Dawson ASAP.** Graham's contact details are [graham@swaithehouse.plus.com](mailto:graham@swaithehouse.plus.com) and 01226 730100. **If you are on the list and not receiving messages with information about the trip, please ensure that Graham has your up-to-date email address.**

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

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

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

### **Apologies and Half-Time Leavers**

**Please note that for the time being, following John's retirement from the Membership Officer role after the AGM, apologies for absence should be sent to Anne Adams;** contact details at the bottom of each update.

### **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.

Administrator Anne Adams [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)