

Please make sure you familiarize yourself with the different-from-usual backstage access at the City Hall on Friday evening – see below.

Weekly update for w/c Sunday 25 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. There are two auditions after the rehearsal, so please leave as quickly and quietly as you can. Please note that Sheffield Wednesday are playing at home on Tuesday night, do set off a little earlier if this is likely to affect your journey.

If you would like Georgina to hold a note-bashing session for the After Hours concert, let her know and she will run one this coming 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](#).

Arrangements for After Hours concert – final edition – new bits in red

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 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 on Friday, 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.

Please store all music in your black Chorus folders.

Please observe the relevant sections of our [stage procedure which you will find here](#).

We will wear the usual full chorus uniform for this concert. Please make sure that you adhere to the Chorus Dress Code which you will find on the Chorus website at [sheffieldphil.org / Members Area / Concert arrangements / Stage Procedure and Dress Code](http://sheffieldphil.org/MembersArea/Concertarrangements/StageProcedureandDressCode); it would be such a shame to be prevented from singing on the day after working so hard!

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 are available on the Chorus website at [sheffieldphil.org / Member's Area / Concert Arrangements](http://sheffieldphil.org/Member'sArea/ConcertArrangements)

Maggie

Maggie has been in touch and is gradually recovering from her hip operation, which unfortunately led to complications, including a fractured femur, which meant the operation had to be re-done. The Chorus sent her flowers and a card at the time of her op, and good wishes from time to time since. She may be able to drive again by the new year, and is very keen to re-commence her voice coaching sessions sometime next term. It's quite clear that she has missed them as much as we have!

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.

Thank you message from Helen Kirk

'What an efficient clear up operation! I turned to start it, only to find that several wonderful members had virtually finished the job. I also had excellent help in setting up from 4 people who know exactly what has to be done. Thank you to all those helpers and thank you to everyone who stayed to partake in the cheese and wine, that is the real measure of it's success. Best wishes, Helen'

Tenors desperately needed!

The Sheffield Civil Service Choir is in desperate need of Tenors to ensure a balanced sound for its annual carol service - they only have one! Any Tenors who are able to help, please speak to Jacqui Amos (Soprano) at rehearsal, or email jacqui.amos@gmail.com. You don't need to be a Civil Servant! The service is 12.30-1.30pm on Friday 14 December at the Victoria Hall Methodist Church (Norfolk Street, near the Crucible), with a rehearsal from 11am and one the evening before (Thurs 13th) 5.15 - 6.15pm. You would of course be welcome to join the regular Thurs rehearsals (29th Nov and 6th Dec) which take place 5.15 - 6.15 pm in a meeting room near the Peace Gardens to get in some extra practice and get to know the rest of the choir. The programme consists of familiar carols from the white Carols for Choirs, with a couple of local Sheffield carols and other straightforward pieces which should be no trouble to learn for anyone from SPC; music will be provided. Light refreshments will be provided after the service. If you are able to help or would like further information, please speak to Jacqui Amos (Soprano) at SPC rehearsal or email jacqui.amos@gmail.com

Tickets available for Messiah Monday 3 December

A number of members of the chorus are singing in Sheffield Bach Choir's performance of Messiah in the cathedral on Monday 3 December at 7pm. The soprano soloist will be former BBC Chorister of the Year Ella Taylor, who has developed into an awesome performer, and the alto soloist will be David Allsopp, one of the foremost counter-tenors in the UK. The concert is very likely to sell out; a few tickets are available from Anne Adams.

Reminder - collection for mince pies and sherry

Helen Kirk reminds us that she will start collecting donations for the sherry and mince pies from 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, from next Tuesday. Many thanks, Helen'*

Reminder - 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 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 fabulous 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!

Reminder - please sign up for Christmas elective events – especially tenors!

On Tuesday 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

Reminder - 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.

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](#).

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 **darius5**; these are for chorus members only so please don't share them.

Chair Paul Henstridge

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org