

## Weekly update for Sunday 10 February 2019

### Rehearsal reminders

On Tuesday 12 February 2019 we will rehearse the Classical Sheffield repertoire before break and the Bach after break.

Remember the extra two Bach rehearsals on Saturday 14 February from 10.30 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 16.30. They will be in the main hall, with split rehearsals for some of the time, during which tenors and basses will be in Lab 5 – where Maggie has her sessions. The honesty bar will be set up for us but it might not be re-stocked – and please make your own arrangements for lunch. If you take a packed lunch please eat in Lab 5 as there will be auditions in the main hall.

Chair Paul Henstridge's rehearsal notes are on the Chorus website, along with links to practice tapes 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. All are at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#) (password reminder at the end of each update). 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 tapes including [the Choralia website](#) (here's a link [directly to the B minor mass](#)).

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](#).

Remember that if you miss one of the compulsory piano rehearsals (26 March and 2 April) you must ask for permission to sing, which will only be granted if your overall attendance has been good. If you miss both piano rehearsals you won't be able to sing. Darius encourages everyone to attend all rehearsals, but asks anyone who isn't able to sing in the concert to let him know via their Voice Rep (see the Chorus website at [Member's Area / Chorus Contacts](#))

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

### Classical Sheffield tickets

Please encourage family and friends to come to our concert on Sunday 10 March – they can buy tickets for just £5 (under 18s FREE) using the link below. And do try to support the festival yourself, by attending one or more concerts – especially those featuring young composers from Sheffield – well worthwhile at just £5 a ticket! Even better value are the Day and Weekend Passes which are selling well so if you want one, don't leave it too long. All the details are here: <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events/2019/classical-weekend-2019>.

### Please support Sheffield's young composers

Many thanks to the generous members of the chorus who have donated to this worthwhile appeal – the young composers will really appreciate it! Please consider a small donation if you are able, and if not please share the link with family and friends who might.

This message from bass Steve Terry explains: *'Classical Sheffield is running a Crowdfunding campaign to support the creation and performance of the new works we have commissioned for the March Classical Weekend. The site is now live and it would be so very, very helpful if you*

could share it with your friends and family and via social media. Even if you are not planning to donate, please **SHARE** - have a look at the site just to get a flavour of this aspect of the Classical Weekend, and the comments from three of the commissioned composers.

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

### **Welcome back from Bochum!**

Chorus members who went to Bochum had a wonderful time, and sang Messiah to a full house, prompting a standing ovation. Petroc Trelawny gave the trip and performance a super plug on his programme on 7 February, the day of the concert – thanks Petroc! The following press release was sent out – it's translated via Google with a few extra tweaks, so please excuse any errors!

*Mayor Erika Stahl receives Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, February 5, 2019*

*Mayor Erika Stahl today, February 5, welcomed the Philharmonic Choir of Bochum's twin town Sheffield in the town hall. The English choir has arrived for a joint concert with the Philharmonic Choir Bochum - the occasion is the 100th birthday of the Bochum Symphony Orchestra this year. The two choirs have been in partnership since 2006.*

*Before visiting the town hall, the 17 visiting singers of the choir explored Bochum City on a city tour and visited the Anneliese Brost Musikforum Ruhr. At the joint concert on Thursday, February 7, in the Music Forum, the singers will sing Messiah under the direction of Bochum choirmaster John Lidfors. The Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus is one of the largest mixed concert choirs in Yorkshire with around 180 members. Their programme includes the great choral works from Baroque, Classic, Romantic and Modern periods. In 2020, a return visit of the Bochum Choir in Sheffield is planned, in which a re-performance of the "Messiah" is on the program.*

*"When I visit schools, I always tell schoolchildren that the sister city partnership with Sheffield is our oldest, that it was founded just five years after the end of the war and that many friends have been formed thanks to it," said Mayor Erika Stahl. Paul Henstridge of the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus also enjoys this strong connection through the music: "Sheffield once built bombs that destroyed Bochum, and Bochum has built bombs that destroyed Sheffield. Today we sing together - that's progress." Both sides were unhappy about the weather: it was raining - in Bochum as in Sheffield.*

### **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.

### **Advance notice - Sunday 10 March 2019 - Classical Sheffield Weekend Festival concert**

Venue is the City Hall ballroom from 17.00 to 18.00. Compulsory rehearsal is at KES on Tuesday 5 March 2019. On-the-day rehearsal is yet to be organised.

Tickets for the one-hour concert – just £5 – are now available via SIV and the [Classical Sheffield website](#), also [Weekend passes are available via SIV](#) at the amazing price of £30 for the whole weekend! Please use social media and email to share the fantastic promotional trailer, available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWPWxhIbKn4> Please distribute Festival brochures to colleagues, friends and family – and persuade as many of them as possible to come!

### **Advance notice - Saturday 6 April 2019 - Bach's Mass in B minor**

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.

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 = 570, 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 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](mailto:chairman@sheffieldphil.org)

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