

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Tenors urgently needed to sing at Tickhill – we only have two at the moment!

Weekly update for Sunday 16 December 2018

Rehearsal reminders plus date of February extra rehearsals

Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 8 January 2019, when we will rehearse the Bach. Links to the rehearsal notes and links to YouTube recordings and practice tapes are on the chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#) (password reminder at the end of each update).

The extra February rehearsals of the B Minor Mass will be on Saturday 16 February 2019 from 10.30 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 16.30. NB. These two rehearsals count towards the Minimum Attendance Requirement, so those who can't attend due to half term please be aware.

Message from Rachel Copley

To all the 'Music Makers' within the Sheffield Phil., do have a very 'Merry Christmas', and a happy, healthy and fulfilling 'New Year', and my best wishes to all, Rachel Copley.

Christmas concert – messages and feedback

The concerts went very well, with a particularly splendid audience in the afternoon. The Sheffield Star listed the concerts as one of the '10 Great Things To Do' and social media advertising from the City Hall and Classical Sheffield was substantial, which probably explains the high audience numbers - over 1,100 tickets were sold in advance for each concert.

Message from Paul Hindmarsh (arranger of Balulalow): *'What a lovely performance of Balulalow! Thank you so much Darius. Please pass on my thanks to the choir. Thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and it was great to catch up briefly with Petroc too.'*

Messages from John Spence: *'I'm missing all my friends in the Phil and definitely suffering from music deprivation. If all goes well I'll be able to hear you all on Saturday evening. I've bought tickets and hopefully we'll be there to enjoy the Christmas Concert. Please give my very best wishes to everyone in the Chorus.'* On Twitter: *'The view from the circle at last evening's [@SheffPhilChorus](#) Christmas Concert. Great sounds from [@SheffPhilChorus](#) and [@blackdyke](#). A real Christmas treat to be there. Perhaps room for just one more Tenor?' 'Super concert and lovely to go backstage at the interval to see all my friends in [@SheffPhilChorus](#). Happy Christmas everybody.'*

Message from Maggie: *'Just to wish you all a wonderful concert this evening. Please send my best wishes to the choir and let them know I am with them in spirit! Have a wonderful Christmas and see you in the New Year.'*

Twitter messages from audience members:

'.....such a great Christmas Concert last night alongside [@blackdyke](#) band'

'what an excellent concert in Sheffield.....Spine tinglingly special #xmasHasStarted'

'First time in 20 years that I am not on stage with [@SheffPhilChorus](#) for the Christmas concerts [@SheffCityHall](#) but hey, I got to hear it! You were amazing!!! Thank you [@blackdyke](#) [@PetrocTrelawny](#) such a great way to start the festive season' (Soprano Angela Argenzio)

'Brilliant concert this afternoon at [@SheffCityHall](#)..... with [@SheffPhilChorus](#) and [@blackdyke](#)'

'Excellent Concert!'

Railway station Wed 19 Dec from 16.15 to 18.30 (attachment)

Thank you to everyone who has signed up – we are going to make a big noise! Thanks to Paul Henstridge who will lead. We will sing from the station carol list (attached; Paul provided some copies on Tuesday which Anne will take on the day) and from your white Carols for Choirs book. Please feel free to come in Christmas jumpers and/or hats, or red hats and scarves – with or without fairy lights. Wrap up as it can be draughty! The carols list is also on the chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#)

Tenors urgently needed to sing at Tickhill Thu 20 Dec at 19.30 (attachment)

Thank you to the 16 sopranos, 8 altos, and 7 basses who have signed up. **There are only 2 tenors so a few more are desperately needed!** The church is at 23 St Mary's Gate, Tickhill, Doncaster, DN11 9LY. Rehearsal time 18.30. Rachel Copley will conduct – thanks Rachel. The singing list and instructions are on the attached leaflet – and on the chorus website of course, at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#)

Bring a dish party at Janet Bower's Thursday 20 December

All chorus members are invited to a 'bring a dish' party at Janet Bower's home in Tickhill after the carol concert. This is always a fun event and a great chance to get together with chorus friends. Janet's address is Medley Cottage, 56 Castlegate, DN11 9QU. It's five minutes walk from the church, and cars may be parked in the car park near the church which is never locked.

Awake Arise on Classic FM Drive on Thursday 20 December at 18.15

Our recording of *Awake Arise* is one of five winning entries selected for Classic FM's prime-time Drive slot by Classic FM and Making Music. The winning entries will be played w/c 17 Dec, ours on Thu 20th at 18.15. This is the third time a carol from our CD has been chosen - absolutely fantastic! Grateful thanks to Rachel Mallaband for the submission and the press release.

St Luke's – thank you (attachment)

Thank you to everyone who sang at St Luke's last Sunday, and to Rachel Copley for conducting. Rachel says *'please... thank all who sang at this very special service, and pass on warm congratulations from a number of the congregation, who said that they thought that it was one of the best that they had heard.'* St Luke's sent a lovely thank you letter which is attached.

Town Hall sing - thank you

Thanks to the sopranos and altos who sang at the Town Hall on 14 December, and to Georgina for conducting. It sounded lovely. Councillor Anne Murphy passed on her grateful thanks to the chorus for stepping into the breach at the last minute.

Rehearsals for Brahms German *Requiem* - Monday 7 and 14 January 2018

Thank you to those who have offered to sing Brahms German *Requiem* with Sheffield Bach Choir on Saturday 5th October 2019 in Sheffield Cathedral. The first rehearsals of the Brahms motets *Warum ist das licht gegeben dem Mühseligen* and *Geistliches Lied*, also on the programme, are on Monday 7 and 14 January at Cemetery Road Baptist Church at 7.30 pm; access is on Napier Street. Singers don't need to attend all the rehearsals, especially if they know the works, but attendance at a decent number including these two would be appreciated. The remaining rehearsals will be on 24 June and 1 July 2019 and then from 2 September 2019 until the concert on 5 October 2019.

If you would like to sing there is still time to sign up; tenors please contact Nigel Wright wrightnigel@yahoo.com ; ladies please contact Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org.

Membership Cards and Subscriptions – message from Graham Dawson (attachment)

'Thank you to the many members that have managed already to complete this season's membership subscription form and arrange payment. Unfortunately I was unable to attend last week's rehearsal because of a family member's funeral in Hampshire but I will be pleased to receive further subscription forms and provide new membership cards at rehearsals in early January. However, please do not let this delay you setting up standing orders or paying by internet bank transfer if one of them is your preferred payment method. Kind regards Graham'

To keep everything legal and our information up-to-date, all members are asked to complete a new subscription form even if you have a continuing standing order or have already paid. Hard copies are available from Graham, or please print the attached form.

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.

Ticket sales

Bach B Minor Mass – 520 (target 1300, capacity 2000)

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

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org