

**Lots to read today - do scroll all the way down!**

## **Weekly update for w/c Sunday 2 December 2018**

### **Rehearsal reminders**

On Tuesday evening 4 December the rehearsal will be in the Upper School as usual. We will be rehearsing for the Christmas concerts.

Georgina's next sight reading session will be the following Tuesday, 11 December.

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

### **Friday's concert**

Thank you to everyone who sang at Friday's After Hours concert, which had a good audience – 146 tickets in advance and plenty more walk ups on the night. The response was very positive, including the following on social media and via email:

*Nigel Gyte: 'I thoroughly enjoyed last night's 'Beyond Wagner' concert. It was a real treat, both aurally and visually. I felt very proud to have been associated with the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. The programme was varied and interesting and my attention was grabbed from the very first beautifully balanced chord right through to the end of the performance. Darius was magnificent.....entertaining introductions and expert musical direction. Worth turning out for. Please pass my huge, heartfelt congratulations to everyone. With my love and warmest best wishes, Nigel x'*

Classical Sheffield: 'Very proud of our members of [@SheffPhilChorus](#) performing in their concert this evening - brilliant stuff!

Trisha Cooper (BBC broadcaster who does the pre-concert talks): 'Absolutely brilliant!'

Angela Argenzio: 'The best next thing to singing with [@SheffPhilChorus](#) is listening to them. Beautiful performance in the Ballroom'

Rebecca Hutten: 'Congratulations all who sang (& conducted!) last night. I was in the audience. So impressed with the sound, depth & range of expression AND THE MUSIC!! It finally made sense to me. It would be so good to do it again - a ready made programme for Classical Sheffield weekend maybe? Well done all!'

Voice Coach Maggie couldn't make it across the Pennines but sent her best wishes and good luck for a fabulous concert.

### **Request for help**

Ann Garbett would be grateful for offers of help with the decorating of the City Hall for the Christmas concert, particularly at the end of the show. If you could spare even just a few minutes to help to take down the decorations, she would be very grateful. Offers of help for setting up in the morning are also welcome; this would mean arriving at the City Hall around 10am. Please see her at rehearsal if you can do that (she sits next to Anne Adams). Help in the evening can be spontaneous!

### **Request for help selling Christmas CDs on 15 December 2018**

We are hoping to be able to sell our Awake Arise CDs before and after the 3pm concert and at both intervals, but we need someone who isn't singing to staff the sales desk, which will be in the foyer. Please can you ask for volunteers among family and friends? We need two people for each concert; they need to be able to handle our card reader for debit/credit card payments. Each will receive a free ticket for either the 3pm or the 7pm concert. Please let Anne Adams have possible names as soon as you can - [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)

## Rehearsal attendance – new procedure

In the absence of a Membership Officer, our procedure for logging attendance needs to change a bit, though a lot of the procedure as it affects members will stay the same. If anything, the new arrangements should be easier for everyone - except Darius of course, who has new tasks!

- The attendance records will be kept by Darius from now on.
- Darius would prefer it if each member attended every rehearsal, even if s/he is unable to sing in a particular concert, so that he can rely on the fact that everyone receives the benefit of the training that each rehearsal provides.
- Members should register at each rehearsal using membership cards, as usual.
- The card reader and manual signing-in sheet will now be the responsibility of Chair Paul Henstridge. Grateful thanks to Rachel Mallaband for 'holding the fort' with this since September.
- Darius will have to manually complete your record if you don't swipe in, using names supplied by Paul; please try not to forget your membership card so that they don't have to undertake this time-consuming task every week.
- There is no longer any need to send rehearsal apologies by email as failure to swipe in will be taken as an apology.
- However, if there is anything you feel you really need to say about your absence, please inform your Voice Rep and/or Chair Paul Henstridge - contact details are on the chorus website at [Members Area / Chorus Contacts](#) (password reminder at the end of each weekly update)
- Members who are unable to sing in any particular concert should tell their Voice Rep, who will inform Darius.
- Darius will use the MAR to alert members via their Voice Reps in cases where attendance falls to levels likely to compromise the ability to perform well in the relevant concert, so the member concerned has time to address the issue.
- Members should make requests to sing despite low attendance via their Voice Rep, who will ask Darius.
- Anyone who wishes to see their attendance record may do so at any time, by request to Darius.
- Darius will produce a singing list shortly before each concert, which he will ask Voice Reps to check, letting him know about any discrepancies. Darius will then forward the singing list to Paul Bedwell, our Marketing and Publicity Officer, for use in the concert programme.

John Spence has produced a full set of new membership cards, which will be provided by Graham following payment of subscriptions (see below).

## Carols at the Millennium Gallery this Wed 5 Dec 18.45 for 19.15 start

Thank you to the 10 sopranos, 6 altos, 4 tenors and 6 basses who have signed up to sing for 20 minutes at the Millennium Galleries, Sheffield. The occasion is an annual event for the Friends of Sheffield Museums, and Georgina Hulse has kindly agreed to conduct as Rachel Copley is not free – many thanks Georgina. We will sing a selection from the white Carols for Choirs book, so please bring that inside your black folder. Our dressing room is on the left along a short corridor to the left of the escalator as you face it with the cafe on your left; there's usually someone around to direct you. The room will be open from about 18.00 so we can get changed and store bags; wine and nibbles will be provided. Please arrive by 18.45 to enable us to have a quick run through. Full concert dress please – see the chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements / Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#). Many thanks! These instructions are also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#)

## **St Luke's Carol Service Sunday 9 December 14.00 – more altos and tenors please!**

Thank you to the 17 sopranos, 6 altos, 3 tenors and 10 basses who have signed up to sing at the annual carol service for St Luke's. We could do with a few more tenors and altos please, especially as we are singing from Messiah! Please collect the music on Tuesday evening at rehearsal; you will also need the white Carols for Choirs and your copy of Messiah. The service is in the Anglican cathedral at 14.00, with a rehearsal at 13.00. Rachel Copley will conduct as usual – many thanks Rachel! Black folders and full concert dress please – see the chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements / Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#). Many thanks! We will sing:

- INTROIT - Ding dong merrily Page 82, v1 and v3.
- Once in Royal David's City page 160 (solo first verse)
- Nativity Carol (John Rutter) page 62.
- For unto us a child is born – Messiah (G. F. Handel).
- A Gaelic Blessing (John Rutter) Leaflet.

Plus congregational carols as in the order of service available on the day. These instructions are also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#)

### **Request for tenors and ladies to sing the Brahms German Requiem**

Sheffield Bach Choir is looking for tenors, altos and sopranos 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*. Singers don't need to attend all the rehearsals, especially if they know the works, but attendance at a decent number would be appreciated.

The first two rehearsals will be on January 7th and January 14th 2019, when the motets will be rehearsed. 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. Rehearsals will be in the Cemetery Road Baptist Church at 7.30 pm; access is on Napier Street. Tenors who would like to sing please contact Nigel Wright [wrightnigel@yahoo.com](mailto:wrightnigel@yahoo.com); ladies please contact Anne Adams [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org). In both cases please say if you have your own copy of the Requiem, in German.

### **Nice message from a former member**

Richard Austin is a good musician who sang bass with us for 4 or 5 years. He was a single man who lived with his elderly mother, who died recently aged 93. Last summer, aged 56/7 he suffered a stroke which confined him to a wheelchair. Richard is in a care home in Collegiate Crescent and he has been visited regularly by bass Dick Williams. He is shortly going to a care home in Belfast to be near his sister. When asked whether Dick could do anything to help, Richard asked him to "wish the choir good luck and all members a merry Christmas." We wish Richard all the best.

### **Emergency contact details**

Thank you to those members who supplied John Spence with emergency contact details. Darius has emailed 87 members who still need to do this; please send them to Chairman Paul at [pahenstridge@btinternet.com](mailto:pahenstridge@btinternet.com) as soon as you can. We need the information in case you are taken ill or have an accident that renders you unable to provide the information during a rehearsal or concert, especially if we are out of Sheffield at the time. Many thanks.

### **Reminder - please sign up for the remaining Christmas elective events – especially altos and tenors!**

On Tuesday evening Anne Adams will have the sign-up sheets for our remaining Christmas elective events, so please check your diaries and sign up if you can. You can still sign up for Millennium Galleries on Wed and St Luke's on Sunday!

- Wed 19 Dec 16.15 to 18.30 (NOTE CORRECTED TIMES): Carols at the railway station. So far we have 18 sopranos, 5 altos, 3 tenors and 10 basses – more altos and tenors please! Paul Henstridge will lead – thanks Paul!
- Thursday 20 December at 19.30: Carol Concert at Tickhill Parish Church. Any profit once concert costs are met will be donated to Alzheimer Research UK. Rehearsal time to be confirmed but will probably be 18.00 or 18.30. Rachel Copley will conduct – thanks Rachel. So far we have 13 sopranos, 4 altos, 3 tenors and 6 basses – a few more of each voice part would be great, but especially altos and tenors please! Wrap up for this one, it's often cold. Wine and mince pies at the interval. All invited to a 'bring a dish' party at Janet Bower's home round the corner afterwards.

### **Reminder - collection for mince pies and sherry**

Helen Kirk reminds us that she is collecting donations for the sherry and mince pies. 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 - 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.

**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 dariu5; these are for chorus members only so please don't share them.

**Chair Paul Henstridge** [chairman@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:chairman@sheffieldphil.org)

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