

Weekly update for Sunday 31 March 2019

Rehearsal reminders

On Tuesday 2 April 2019 we will have the second piano rehearsal with Andrew Griffiths, at our usual venue. Anyone who has to miss one of the two piano rehearsals will need good overall attendance and permission to sing in the concert. Unfortunately if you miss both rehearsals you won't be able to sing. Remember that those not singing in the concert shouldn't attend either of these two rehearsals so that the conductor and Darius can hear how it will sound on Saturday.

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

[Please click here to go directly to the rehearsal schedule](#), there's also a link on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

Bach - updated notes (attachment)

Paul Henstridge's updated rehearsal notes are attached. They are also on the website, along with You Tube recordings and rehearsal recordings, all at [Members Area / Preparing the music](#). Log-in details are at the end of every weekly update.

Ticket sales for Saturday's B minor Mass concert

Please do everything you can to publicise the concert on Saturday and to encourage family, friends and colleagues to attend. So far 749 tickets have been sold, which means that if on-the-day sales reach the usual 300 there should be over 1000 in the audience. The target is 1300, which looks quite good from the stage; capacity is 2000. Tickets are [available via the City Hall website](#) or from the Box Office.

Arrangements for Saturday's Mass in B minor concert

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. Latecomers must wait for a suitable break before joining the body of the Chorus. If the Conductor releases the Chorus early but keeps the orchestra onstage, leave very quickly and in complete silence or remain until the orchestra finish.

Access is via the Stage Door, which is down a set of steps towards the right hand side of the back of the City Hall. Please stick to the prescribed areas so that we don't compromise the City Hall's fire safety arrangements and make life difficult for front of house and technical staff.

Registration Our electronic registration system will be set up in the usual place on the production corridor; please ask if you aren't sure where this is – and make sure you bring your membership card.

Dressing rooms There's an event in the ballroom so we can't use the North and South Halls as dressing rooms. The ladies will be in the Vincent Harris Room, which is up the stairs nearest to the Stage Door, then up the next flight and on the corridor at the top. Gents will be in the Barbirolli Room, which is in a similar position but at the other side of the stage so a longer walk from the Stage Door. These two dressing rooms are quite small so it will be very cramped and it may be best to arrive at the City Hall already wearing concert dress. Members of the Chorus with mobility limitations may use Dressing Room 1, which is at platform level up the stairs nearest to the Stage Door. The City Hall staff usually put up signs just inside the Stage Door but please ask if you aren't sure – the Stage Door staff are very helpful.

Car parking Chorus members are usually able to get a car parking voucher from the City Hall Box Office, enabling them 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.

In Conversation Tricia Cooper's on-stage 'In Conversation' session is at 18.00 in the main concert hall. Members of the chorus can attend this session, which often provides an insight into the composer and the music or the way the conductor plans to interpret it.

Seating The seating plan is attached, and copies will be available on the platform in the afternoon. Seats are unallocated within each voice part, and your seat for the afternoon rehearsal is your place for the concert. Please can tall people sit towards the back, or the outsides of the row, because of sight lines. The Membership Officer James Oliver is responsible for seating so please be prepared to move if asked either by him or by a Voice Rep.

Platform Procedure Line up in single file along the stairways, taking care not to cause an obstruction as the orchestra members have to get up and down, and some will be carrying expensive instruments. Front row leads on, folders under outward facing arm. Sit down immediately on reaching your seat. Stand as one body when the leader of the orchestra enters or stands to take welcoming applause, and either sit when he/she sits or remain standing ready to sing. Please maintain a professional presentation at all times, ie correct concert dress, no fidgeting with music, no bottles of water and no waving to the audience. There should be no talking from when the first violinist stands to tune up the orchestra. Back row leads off, leaving folders on seats. Move away as quickly as possible once you reach the backstage area – it is often blockages here that hold up those who are still on the platform. Make sure you return in plenty of time if there is an interval, which for us may effectively be just five minutes. At the end, remain standing, keeping scores open until applause begins. Only applaud soloists etc when they return on stage having taken initial applause. Do not applaud our Music Director (MD), since s/he is representing the chorus

Concert Dress Code Please store all music in your black Chorus folders. Ladies please take care to wear the correct formal concert dress – it would be a tragedy for you not to be able to sing! [Check what you can and can't wear on the website here.](#) Please observe the relevant sections of our [stage procedure which you will find here.](#)

Health and safety Please note the importance of NOT wearing perfume or aftershave, for either rehearsals or concerts, as they can cause some members to have allergic reactions, and can interfere with efficient breathing. 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 (fire), or to Devonshire Green (bomb alert).

Finally - please help new members and the three extra tenors who are joining us as they may not have sung at the City Hall before and it can seem a bit of a rabbit warren to newcomers.

These arrangements are listed, as always, on the chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#)

Weekly updates

Some members are still not receiving the weekly update; please ask colleagues who report this to tell bass Matthew Morgan, who is working through the issues as best he can.

However, if ever you don't receive the weekly update, please go to the Members Area of the Chorus website; Anne spends time every week keeping this up to date, with rehearsal details in [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) and concert arrangements in [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#). Concert arrangements are posted a few weeks before the concert; the arrangements we know so far for the Bach concert have been there for some weeks for example. The weekly updates themselves are uploaded onto the website every week in [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#), and the dates for the following season are there as well in [Members Area / Diary Dates](#). Log-in details are at the end of every weekly update (see below), but urgent messages are always listed above the log-in box so members can read the important part without logging in.

Help to promote your Chorus – corrected email (see attachment)

We are considering ordering mugs as shown in the attachment – a plain white 'chunky' mug, with our new logo, and a 'singing' quotation. Price will be around £9 each. Interested? If so please sign up for your mug at rehearsal or email RachelMallaband@sheffieldphil.org with your name, chorus number, quantity and quotation required (see attachment for quotation choices).

Subs by standing order - plea

Please can those who pay monthly check that they've set up a new payment schedule. A number of members set an end date for last year's payments and have forgotten to set up a new schedule.

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.

Faure Requiem on 4 May 2019 – see website at [Members Area / For information](#)

Rehearsal attendance new procedure – see chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)

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