

Ladies of the chorus please see the urgent request below!

Everyone please update yourselves with new details for upcoming concerts - in red

Weekly update for w/c Sunday 9 December 2018

Rehearsal reminders

On Tuesday evening 11 December the rehearsal will be in the Upper School as usual. We will be rehearsing for the Christmas concerts. Georgina will hold a sight reading session in Lab 5, which is where we had the post-AGM party and where Maggie holds her coaching sessions.

The Christmas carol list 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.

Urgent request to SPC ladies – respond as soon as you can ladies!

City Councillor Anne Murphy has asked if we can supply a women's choir around 12 noon on 14 December, to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Sheffield women getting the vote for the first time. A women's choir had been booked but has pulled out at the last minute. You may remember that this happened last year as well, and a few of you stepped into the breach on that occasion as well, led by Georgina Hulse, who is willing to conduct again on this occasion - if we can muster a decent number of sopranos and altos (a dozen would probably be fine).

We would be needed at around 12.00 noon, to sing a couple of songs. We could sing 'Lift Thine Eyes' again (as at the Classical Sheffield launch), and perhaps one or two simple carols. The plucky volunteers would be welcome to join The Votes for Women Celebratory Event, which starts at 11am with drinks and speeches in the Town Hall Silver Room, includes the unveiling of a piece of art work and ends with a joint photograph of all the women involved. The press are likely to be there, and the Chorus could gain some valuable publicity.

If you feel you could help out by singing on this occasion, please email Georgina Hulse at education@sheffieldphil.org. If we get enough volunteers we will confirm the booking and hand out music at Tuesday's rehearsal. We will probably have a 10 minute practice in the main hall downstairs immediately after the rehearsal. Grateful thanks in advance ladies!

Final arrangements for the Christmas Carol concerts on Saturday 15 December 2018; new information in red

The concerts are on Saturday 15 December at 15.00 and 19.00 in the City Hall.

There will be a rehearsal in the City Hall from 12.00 to 14.00. **Please make sure you are in your places ready to sing at 12.00 on the dot.**

We will be singing from the chorus risers using a seating plan organised by James Oliver. As you know, James is new to this so please bear with him while he finds his feet. The City Hall Stage Manager will be on hand to help.

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 as you look at the back. The door is usually open but if not please ring the bell and it will be opened by the stage door staff.

The signing-in desk will be in the usual position in the production corridor. If you are new please ask someone to show you the way – it is quite a rabbit warren backstage at the City Hall! The stage door staff are always helpful as well, so do ask.

Chorus dressing rooms will be the Vincent Harris and the Barbirolli rooms. There will be signs at the stage door, but please help newcomers to find their way. These rooms are much smaller than our usual spaces in the basement, which are in use for another event, so space will be extremely limited. It would really help if as many chorus members as possible come already in uniform. Members with limited mobility may use dressing room 1 as usual.

Thank you to everyone for using the goods lift and staying in the areas authorised to us; we are pretty easy to spot in our uniforms and/or with suit bags etc! Since we are using the Vincent Harris and Barbirolli rooms, the toilets at circle level in the auditorium will be available for us to use throughout the period.

Please store all music in your black Chorus folders. If you struggle to fit everything in using the rather tight bands, buy some thin black elastic (John Lewis sell it) and wind it round the folder. The audience can't see it this and it is much easier to hold extra pieces of music, especially those that are larger than usual.

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. However, gentlemen usually wear decorative dicky bows, while many ladies wear flashing Christmas earrings. These are not turned on until the second half of each concert.

Please make sure that apart from the above, 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; it would be such a shame to be prevented from singing on the day!

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 (fire), or to Devonshire Green (bomb).

Great news about our Christmas CD – and an urgent request!

Our recording of Awake Arise from the CD is one of five winning entries selected for Classic FM's popular prime-time Drive slot by Classic FM and Making Music. The five winning entries will be played in the week commencing 17 December, one entry per day. This is the third time a carol from this recording has been chosen, which is absolutely fantastic! Grateful thanks to Rachel Mallaband for making the submission on our behalf, and for the press release that she has sent out to various local media outlets.

Our Christmas carol concerts are obviously a prime opportunity to capitalize on this great news by selling the Awake Arise CDs in the City Hall foyer, but it isn't looking possible at the moment as we have nobody to staff the sales desk! We need a couple of volunteers to sell CDs before and after the 3pm concert and at both intervals. Please can you ask for volunteers among family and friends? Or perhaps a member of the chorus who isn't singing in the concerts? At least one of the volunteers needs 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. Otherwise the CDs will stay in her attic for another year!

Final chance to donate for mince pies and sherry

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fund for sherry and mince pies, which will be served to the chorus and the Black Dyke Band at the evening interval of our Christmas carol concert on 15 December. If you haven't yet contributed, please see Helen Kirk at rehearsal. You can also buy £1 raffle tickets with a chance to win one of Janet Bower's fabulous Christmas cakes. The raffle money is used to swell chorus funds and will be drawn at the sherry and mince pie interval. Grateful thanks to Janet for this generous contribution to our fund raising effort!

Request for help with City Hall stage decorations

Ann Garbett would be grateful for volunteers to help with the City Hall stage decorations which her team put up on the morning of the concert. Please see Ann at rehearsal if you can help.

Arrangements for railway station Wed 19 Dec from 16.15 to 18.30 – new info in red

Thank you to the 22 sopranos, 8 altos, 6 tenors and 11 basses who have 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) so please bring your white Carols for Choirs book; the sheet music will be available on the day.** 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!

Arrangements for carol concert at Tickhill Thu 20 Dec at 19.30; new info in red

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.

Thank you to the 16 sopranos, 7 altos, 3 tenors and 6 basses who have signed up so far – a few more altos and tenors would be great! Former member Sue Morton will do the readings and former accompanist Dan Gordon will play the organ; his wife will join us to sing. **We will sing the following; page numbers refer to the white Carols for Choirs unless stated otherwise:**

Once in Royal David's City p260 (not v4)

Christmas Night p310

Good King Wenceslas CCBook 1 (Green) p34

Away in a manger p61

Infant Holy p192

Silent Night p304

Shepherd's Pipe Carol p86

O little town of Bethlehem p234

Hallelujah Chorus (own copy or sheet)

Hark the herald angels sing p107

Ding dong merrily p82

It came upon the midnight clear p194

O Holy Night (leaflet)

O come, all ye faithful (V1,2,5,6,7) p226

We wish you a Merry Christmas p164

Wrap up for this one, it's often cold. Wine and mince pies at the interval. All chorus members are invited to a 'bring a dish' party at Janet Bower's home round the corner afterwards.

Awake Arise CDs on sale for £5

Our Christmas CD featuring the fabulous Black Dyke Band is a snip at £5 – see Anne Adams at rehearsal if you want one for a last-minute Christmas present!

Reminder - 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 every 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).

Reminder - 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 ; ladies please contact Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org. In both cases please say if you have your own copy of the *Requiem*, in German.

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.

Concert in Firth Hall Thursday 20 December 7.30pm

Austrian mezzo-soprano Sophie Rennert performs winter songs by Schubert and Christmas songs by a range of composers in what promises to be a captivating yet contemplative concert. Tickets £14.50, £11.50 and £6 but £3 more on the door, so use the link to [BOOK TICKETS](#)

Come and Sing Day led by Bob Chilcott – [Members Area / Singing Opportunities](#)

Upcoming classical 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

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org