

Extra update for Friday 7 June 2019 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Good wishes

Maggie and Nigel Gyte (our previous accompanist) both send their good wishes. They will both be at the concert and also at the get together afterwards. Good wishes also from John Spence, who sadly won't be able to come on Sunday because of his wife's condition.

YouTube video about Holy Face

Below is a link to a super YouTube video enthusing about The Holy Face. A bit late in the day but not under our control – made by a chap called Russell Eagling. Those who know how to, please share the link on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram – and thanks to those who already have!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1ZDTcvZB8s&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0s89SwTTFnq6AI4TI4I6mAIKhYKj9trJxgBD9NvblcdSJJ1m6MTR9X01c>

Holy Face audiostory

Darius has sent this link to an audiostory just over 30 minutes long, featuring Halifax Choral Society's journey from the first impressions of the music through to the recording and concert performance.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nfnug279garbpui/The%20Holy%20Face%20Audiostory.mp3?dl=0>

Concert programmes

Anne Adams will be selling programmes for the reduced price of £1 to people who have a pound coin, on the production corridor (where we sign in) before the rehearsal only. After that they will only be available from front of house staff and they'll cost £2.

Gents dressing room

Gents are in the South Hall but there's no spill-over in the Barbirolli, apologies for the error. Ladies are in the North Hall with spill-over in the Vincent Harris room if we need it.

Tickets for the Holy Face concert - update

We have now sold 450 tickets - thank you for your efforts. Let's see if we can muster a last-minute flurry of activity and raise the sales to our target of 1000, by:

- Sharing posts you see on our public Facebook (FB) page '[Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus](#)' - and inviting your FB friends to like the page. Clicking 'going/attending' on the FB event for this [concert](#) and invite your friends and family to do the same. Sharing any FB posts you see from Halifax Choral Society and Black Dyke Band.
- Liking and re-tweeting our Twitter posts @SheffPhilChorus and writing your own tweets for us and Sheffield City Hall to re-tweet.

The Holy Face concert arrangements

The concert is at the City Hall on Sunday 9 June at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. First half will start with the Wilby organ concerto featuring Darius, with Nicholas Childs conducting, then Darius will conduct Paradise. The Wilby comes after a 20 minute interval, Darius conducting.

Compulsory 'on-the-day' rehearsal will be from 11.30 to 14.00 in the City Hall. Please make sure you are in your seats ready to start at 11.30 on the dot. However, the band are rehearsing from 11.00 to 11.30 so please take your seats in silence and as quietly as you can. Latecomers must wait for a suitable break before joining the body of the Chorus. If Darius releases the

choirs early but keeps the band onstage, leave very quickly and in complete silence or remain until the band 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. There will be a sheet for those new members who don't have a membership card yet.

Dressing rooms Dressing rooms for members of both choruses are in the North Hall (ladies) and South halls (gentlemen), adjacent to the City Hall ballroom, with access available from 10.30am. If it gets a bit crowded in the ladies dressing room they can use the Vincent Harris room as spill-over. The girls and boys of the Yorkshire Youth Choir (YYC) are in dressing rooms 5 and 6 which have their own toilets; please stay out of these rooms for safeguarding reasons. The YYC will be rehearsing from 10.30 to 11.30 in the ballroom, so please be quiet if you go down to the North and South Hall dressing rooms during this period. 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. There should be bins, chairs, jugs of water and a mirror in each dressing room. 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. Please note that only those to whom a City Hall parking permit has been allocated may park behind the City Hall.

Seating The seating plan is attached, and copies will be available on the platform in the morning. Seats are unallocated within each voice part, and your seat for the morning rehearsal is your place for the concert. Members of Halifax Choral Society will sit among us, ie, the two choirs will not be seated in separate areas. First sopranos will be on the outside, ie, as we sit in rehearsals. Please arrange yourselves so that 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. Please help visiting choir members – and of course make them feel welcome and appreciated!

A special plea – can members please stick to the seating plan and not alter it to be able to sit with friends, especially where this isolates colleagues from other voice parts, which is very disconcerting at the best of times but especially so given the City Hall's acoustic.

Platform Procedure Line up in single file along the stairways, taking care not to cause an obstruction as the band members have to get up and down, and some will be carrying large and/or expensive instruments. Front row leads on, folders under outward facing arm. Sit down immediately on reaching your seat. Remain seated until the conductor signals us to rise. 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 once the platform party starts to arrive.

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, and there are 80 extra people to get off the stage! For the same reason please make sure you

return in plenty of time for the second half – the interval will last just 20 minutes from the time the back row starts to leave the stage. At the end, remain standing, keeping scores open until applause begins. Only applaud soloists etc when they return on stage having taken the initial applause.

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).

Concert merchandise There will be a sales desk in the foyer, selling Holy Face CDs, Black Dyke Band merchandise and Chris Wiltshire's book about the choir's 1911 world tour.

Social There will be a get-together in the ballroom after the concert, to which all performers have been invited; drinks and nibbles will be available, and the bar will be open. Please try to stay for this event, which will be a super opportunity to chat with Philip Wilby, our soloists and visiting choir members – and with one another of course! Seven members of the Black Dyke Band have agreed to stay for this event, specifically to meet young brass players, who must be accompanied by an adult. Please pass the names of any young brass players who want to meet the band to Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org by Sat 8th June at the latest.

Finally - please help new members and the visiting choirs 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](#)