

**Weekly update for Sunday 2 June 2019 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

### **Next rehearsal (attachment)**

The compulsory piano rehearsal for Holy Face is on Tuesday 4 June 2019 at our usual venue. Chairman Paul Henstridge has updated his rehearsal notes for Holy Face and Paradise, attached and on the website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#)

### **Tickets for the Holy Face concert - update**

We have now sold 420 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:

1. Selling tickets to friends and family, either at the City Hall (for centre Circle and front centre stalls) or at rehearsal.
2. Sharing the e-flyer via email and/or social media.
3. 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.
4. Liking and re-tweeting our Twitter posts @SheffPhilChorus and writing your own tweets for us and Sheffield City Hall to re-tweet.

Note that any young brass players attending the concert are invited to meet the band afterwards, accompanied by an adult. Please email names to [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)

### **The Holy Face concert arrangements**

The concert is at the City Hall next 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 these get a bit crowded then ladies can use the Vincent Harris room, gents may use the Barbirolli room. 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 programmes** Please support the Chorus by purchasing a concert programme, available from the City Hall foyer before the concert. There will also 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](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org) by Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

### **Bochum trip – names needed please!**

In December we hope to get a party together to return to Bochum to take part in their family Christmas concert. Provided we can get enough singers and a reasonable balance between the different voices, we can do a 15 minutes slot in their concert, which lasts about an hour. They're very keen for us to take part. We imagine that we will perform some of the music from our own Christmas concert on Saturday 14 December, for which we'd aim to be back in time to attend.

If you would like to go, the concert is on 8th December in their new glorious concert hall where some of us sang the Messiah with them last year. One incentive that they're keen to point out is their famous Christmas markets!

There are lots of travel options e.g. flights to nearby Dusseldorf or Dortmund, Eurostar to Brussels and onward train to Bochum via Cologne, car ferries - Bochum is 3 hours drive from Rotterdam Europoort etc. Additionally, Bochum choir members are very happy to provide accommodation for those that wish.

If you would like to go on the trip to Bochum, please let Graham Dawson or Chairman Paul Henstridge know as soon as possible. [chairman@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:chairman@sheffieldphil.org)

### **FREE concert at St Marie's on 8 June featuring a great German chamber choir**

On Saturday 8 June 2019 from 8pm to 9pm the Franz Liszt Weimar University of Music Chamber Choir will sing Schumann's *Zigeunerleben* and works by Dvorak, Elgar and Brahms. Focusing on a *cappella* music from the 16th to 20th century, the choir is a frequent guest at both national and international festivals and competitions, winning numerous prizes and awards. Further details at <https://stmariecathedral.org/news-and-events/concert-series/>

**Reminder - revised email to use if your contact details change**

Matthew Morgan has set up a new system for informing the appropriate people about changes in your contact details, especially email addresses. Please send a message to [emailchange2019@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:emailchange2019@sheffieldphil.org) to ensure that your details are amended on the Membership database and that you will continue to receive the weekly update.

### **Diary Dates**

Diary dates were removed from the weekly update at the request of members who don't want it to be too long; however they have been listed on the Chorus website for many weeks, to enable members to plan their diaries, at [Members Area / Diary dates](#). Dates for 2020-21 will be listed as soon as they are confirmed, so keep your eye on this page.

### **Rehearsal reminders**

Please don't forget your membership card for swiping in. No need to send apologies under the new system (details at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)), 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](#).

### **Singing opportunities**

Armed Man on 16 June 2019 for Broomhill Festival

Brahms German Requiem on Saturday 13 July 2019 in Sheffield

Details for these and other opportunities are on the Chorus website at [Members' Area / For information / Singing Opportunities](#)

### **Weekly updates and the Chorus website**

If ever you don't receive the weekly update, it is uploaded every week in [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#). The chorus user name is the same for every member, it's the word *member* and the password is *dariu5*. These are for chorus members only so please don't share them. However, urgent messages such as rehearsal venue changes are always listed above the log-in box so members can read the important part without logging in.

The Members Area of the website lists all the information included in the update, eg rehearsal details, rehearsal notes and links to recordings, concert and re-audition arrangements, as well as dates for the following season, our official stage procedure, Darius' rehearsal schedule, how to look after your voice etc.

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.

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

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