

Read on for: Rehearsal details; revised schedule and rehearsal notes and tracks / recordings for Christmas and Messiah; AGM and social; Sign up for Christmas electives; tenors and altos needed for Margaret Staniforth funeral; Updated attendance procedure, singing list etc; accommodation for French/German visitors; workshops; Instructions for Messiah with Bach Choir including rehearsals; Diary dates, Password, Contact emails

Weekly update Sunday 17 November 2019 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 19 November in the Upper School. It will end half an hour earlier than usual to make time for the AGM (see below). We will be rehearsing Messiah in the first half and Christmas music in the second – so please don't forget to bring your own copies of Messiah and Carols for Choirs. The list of carols and running order for the Christmas concert was provided last week and is on the website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#), along with the arrangements so far for the Christmas carol concerts.

NB If you have a spare Messiah at home and wouldn't mind bringing it to lend to a newcomer, they'd be very grateful as we are very short of copies.

If you didn't order your copy via Els (as per the note in recent weekly updates), you should be able to buy one for less than £10 from [Abe Books](#) (link goes to Messiah sales page).

Revised rehearsal schedule, practice tracks and rehearsal notes (attachment)

Please find attached the rehearsal notes which Chair Paul has compiled from Darius' instructions. The revised 2019-20 rehearsal schedule is on [Darius' website](#) and on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#). Piano and tutti rehearsal dates and times can be found at [Members Area / Diary dates](#). See end of this update for members area user name and password.

Links to YouTube recordings and voice part rehearsal tracks for Messiah, together with a number of the carols we will sing during the festive season, and Paul's rehearsal notes, are on the Chorus website at: [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#).

AGM and post-AGM social

The AGM is on Tuesday 19 November at 8.30 following a shortened rehearsal. The papers have already been circulated and are in the Members Area of the Chorus website at [Members Area / Official documents and minutes / AGM](#). It's not our custom to provide hard copies of the papers, so please bring your own (or digital versions) if you need them. There were a few typos in the Annual Report; nothing critical (eg last year's date in some footers and on Sally's New Members Officer report) but the website has been updated with the revised version. Thanks to those who spotted typos, and apologies for making them.

We still don't have a volunteer to act as Librarian, and will feel the lack of one very quickly, so please have a think about whether you might be able to undertake this task. It's the sort of thing two people might be able to share, maybe one to do the sourcing and ordering, and another to collect them and organise the distribution to the Chorus.

The AGM will only take 30 minutes and will be followed by our usual wine and cheese social event. This is a great chance for Chorus members to have a proper chat and most people really enjoy it. Please see bass Richard Salt on Tuesday night if you haven't yet made your donation – £3 is the suggested amount.

Please sign up for Christmas electives

This year we are singing at four elective events, we'd love there to be a decent-sized balanced choir for each of these, so please check your diaries and sign the voice part volunteer sheets which Anne Adams will bring to rehearsal on Tuesday. The four dates are listed below. **We particularly need volunteers for the half hour session at the Millennium Galleries on Wednesday 27 November – amazingly less than two weeks away!** A list of carols will be provided nearer the time – most from the white Carols for Choirs book.

Wed 27 Nov 2019, 7.30pm: 20 minute concert for Friends of Sheffield Museums at Millennium Galleries, conducted by Georgina Hulse. Probably meet around 6.30 for a run through.

Sun 8 Dec 2pm: St Luke's Carol, Service, Sheffield Cathedral, conducted by Rachel Copley.

Tue 17 December 4.15 – 6pm: carols for Heart Research at Sheffield Station

Thu 19 Dec 2019: Tickhill Carol Concert, 7.30pm

Tenors and altos needed for Margaret Staniforth funeral 6 December 2pm

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to sing at Margaret Staniforth's funeral, and to Rachel Copley who has kindly agreed to conduct. We will go ahead with this, but have only one tenor so please chaps, do think about whether you can sing! We are also a bit short of altos. The funeral will be held on Friday 6th December at 2.00pm at St John's Church, Walton Back Lane, Chesterfield S42. We will sing a couple of Bruckner motets; please keep your eye open for the music, which EIs may bring this Tuesday.

New Membership Officer, concert apologies and Voice Reps

Marianne Grayson (first alto) has become our Membership Officer. Now that she has had a few weeks in the role, we would like to clarify the system for communication between chorus members, voice reps, Darius and Marianne.

Attending rehearsals and singing list status

The rehearsal schedule is found on <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf> and shows the number of rehearsals for each concert.

In order to achieve high performance standards, we have a minimum attendance requirement for a concert, of 75% of rehearsals. This must include the conductor's piano rehearsal and the final (orchestral) rehearsal. Members should ideally keep an eye on their own attendance to ensure they qualify to sing, but if you are not sure whether you have attended enough rehearsals please contact your Voice Rep (addresses below). Your voice rep should in any case contact you if your attendance looks as though it might drop below 75%.

Nevertheless, because rehearsals contribute towards the general development of singing skills, we would prefer it if members made every effort to attend rehearsals, irrespective of whether they have already achieved the minimum or, indeed, are unable to sing in the concert.

Singing lists are generated in the final weeks before a concert and include every member who has not sent their apologies AND has attended, or is on track to attend, at least 75% of rehearsals OR has been given special exceptional permission to sing (see below).

Special permission to sing

If you discover you have not attended enough rehearsals to be included on the singing list, you are free to contact the Membership Officer MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org to seek permission to sing. She has some discretion, but if you fall outside this she will contact Darius on your behalf.

Concert apologies

If you know you will not be available for a concert or will miss too many rehearsals to be able to sing a concert, please inform your Voice Rep as soon as you are able. But, as noted above, you are still welcome (and indeed encouraged) to continue to attend all rehearsals except the final conductor's rehearsal.

Voice Representatives

Voice Reps will follow up anyone who has been attending but is at risk of falling below 75% and has not sent concert apologies.

Voice Reps are also the people to consult for anything else: questions, suggestions, comments, feedback and complaints.

We are working towards the use of @sheffieldphil.org email addresses for voice reps, but until further notice please use:

Sop 1: katrina.hulse@googlemail.com

Sop 2: triciahall98@gmail.com

Alto 1: rachelrow@yahoo.co.uk

Alto 2: kate.reece09@gmail.com

Tenor 1 & 2: jim.monach@gmail.com

Bass 1: richardsalt@talktalk.net

Bass 2: allanlacey1215@gmail.com

All the above information is available on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

Marianne Grayson now the contact for French/German visitor accommodation

If you haven't already, please can you have a think about whether you could offer to put up a visitor from either France or Germany (or both?!). While it helps if you can speak either French or German, it isn't a deal breaker as most of the visitors can speak English.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already offered to accommodate our visitors, we really appreciate this. Membership Officer Marianne Grayson has taken on the task of coordinating accommodation (thanks Marianne), so please let her know if you feel able to offer our visitors a room in your home, at MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org

Please go ahead and make private arrangements with French or German friends, but please let Marianne know, so we can keep track of who is staying where.

Singing workshops continue

Our Bring A Man Night last week was very successful, as was Georgina's workshop. Let's hope those who came enjoyed it sufficiently to return. All are invited to Georgina's singing workshop from 6.30pm - but men especially. We know from leaver feedback that the way we all interact with newcomers makes a big difference and is a game-changer when it comes to retaining them, so do be sure to be as friendly and welcoming as possible.

Members singing Messiah on Monday 2 December 2019

Sheffield Bach Choir would like to thank those members who have volunteered to sing Messiah with them in the cathedral on Monday 2 December at 7pm. The first rehearsal is tomorrow evening 18 November at 7.15pm, the second and final rehearsal is the following Monday 25 November at 7.15pm, at Cemetery Road Baptist Church 11 Napier Street Sheffield S11 8HA. There will be no rehearsal on the day. Please take your own copy of Messiah. Please note that

parking at Waitrose car park is by arrangement only – on arrival at the rehearsal venue please provide your car registration so it can be added to the list submitted to Waitrose; without this you will be given a hefty fine!

Diary dates

AGM and cheese and wine social event: Tuesday 19 November 8.30

Elective event - Wednesday 27 November 2019, 7.30pm: 20 minute carol concert for Friends of Sheffield Museums at the Millennium Galleries, conducted by Georgina Hulse

Elective event – Sunday 8 December 4pm: Carol Service in Bochum, Germany, as part of short trip to Bochum (back in time for our Christmas concerts on Saturday 14 December)

Elective event - Sunday 8 December 2pm: St Luke's Carol, Service, Sheffield Cathedral, conducted by Rachel Copley

Saturday 14 December 2pm and 5.30pm: Carol concerts at City Hall NOTE TIMES!!!!

Elective event – Tuesday 17 December: teatime carol slot at Sheffield Station (to be confirmed)

Elective event – Thursday 19 December 2019: Tickhill Carol Concert, 7.30pm

Saturday 18 April 2020 7pm – Messiah concert with Black Dyke Band in Sheffield cathedral.

Friday 1 May 2020 – compulsory piano rehearsal for Verdi *Requiem* with conductor Gianluca Marcianó at KES, tutti rehearsal City Hall Saturday 2 May 2020 from 2pm to 5pm (concert at 7pm)

TWO choir rehearsals for Mahler 8 in Manchester: 10.30 - 4pm on Saturday 6 June 2020 (counts for the MAR) and 2 - 6pm on Saturday 13 June 2020 (doesn't count for the MAR).

Tutti rehearsal for Mahler 8 from 1.30 to 4.30 on Saturday 20 June 2020 at Bridgewater Hall (concert at 7.30pm, no interval)

Concert dates and details, including piano and tutti rehearsal dates, times and locations, are posted on the Chorus website as soon as they become available so that members can plan their activities, at [Members Area / Diary dates](#). For example we have accepted an invitation to sing Mahler 2 on Sunday 7 March 2021 in the City Hall with Hallam Choral Society, Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hallam Sinfonia, conducted by George Morton.

What to do if your contact details change

Please send a message to emailchange2019@sheffieldphil.org to ensure that your details are amended on the Membership database and that you continue to receive the weekly update.

Singing opportunities

Details for a range of 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

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org