

URGENT: request for help organising French/German visit (see below)

Read on for: Revised rehearsal schedule; updated rehearsal notes; please promote After Hours concert; arrangements for After Hours concert; **meeting to organise Messiah concert; Bring a Man Night next week**; missing Rutter scores; collection for cheese and wine; **accommodation for French/German visitors; new venue for Messiah concert**; Diary dates, Password, Contact emails

Please look out for AGM notice email tomorrow

Weekly update Sunday 3 November 2019 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal

Remember remember that our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 5 November in the Upper School. We will be rehearsing the ballroom programme all evening.

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

Darius has updated the 2019-20 rehearsal schedule, which 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.

Updated rehearsal notes are attached, and on the Chorus website along with links to YouTube recordings of all the ballroom concert works: [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#). In the same place are Grieg's *Hvad est du dog skjön* with the Norwegian words underneath each voice part, free to print for personal use, plus a translation.

Ticket sales for After Hours concert (attachment)

PLEASE do everything you can to get folk to attend this concert, for which very few tickets have been requested. The concert will be attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, who will be presented with the framed photo we were given by the Bochum choir, just before we sing.

Thank you to everyone who has taken flyers and/or distributed the electronic flyer. There are plenty left, so please take some and give them to friends, family and work colleagues. The electronic version is attached; please share as widely as you can, whether by email, Facebook, Twitter or whatever.

Tickets are required, but they are FREE and there is no booking fee – available online via the Chorus website, or at http://bit.ly/sch_afterhours2019 or from the City Hall box office.

Arrangements for the After Hours concert on Saturday 9 November 2019

The concert is in the ballroom at the City Hall on Saturday 9 November at 9.15pm, after the Halle concert in the main hall upstairs. The whole programme will be sung unaccompanied, Darius conducting.

The compulsory 'on-the-day' rehearsal will be in the City Hall ballroom from 16.45 to 18.00, allowing plenty of time for those who wish, to attend the Halle concert in the main hall upstairs. Please note that there won't be access to the ballroom, or to the North and South Hall, until 16.15 at the earliest, because there is a tea dance that doesn't finish until 16.00.

Access to the City Hall 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.

Our electronic registration system will be set up, probably in the basement corridor, so please 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 are in the North and South halls, adjacent to the City Hall ballroom. Please note that we won't be able to get into any part of the ballroom suite until 16.15 at the earliest, because there is a tea dance that doesn't finish until 16.00. The crew then have to clear away and set up our staging before we can get in. The South Hall is also used for the tea dance, so access to that dressing room may be delayed a little - please use the North Hall if you arrive before 16.40. The South Hall will be ready by the time we have finished our rehearsal.

People who take a packed tea may eat it in the dressing room; please be sure to 'leave no trace'!

Please note that we will NOT have access to any of the upstairs dressing rooms, including Dressing Room 1, because we are not singing in the main hall.

There should be bins, chairs, jugs of water and a mirror in each dressing room. The City Hall people usually put up signs just inside the Stage Door, but please ask if you aren't sure – the Stage Door folk are very helpful.

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 also note that only those to whom a City Hall parking permit has been allocated may park behind the City Hall.

Please listen for directions about getting on stage, during or after the rehearsal at 16.45 - 18.00. James Oliver is unavailable on 9 November, so Paul Hanstridge will take over his role on the day. Please follow Paul's directions, but basically we will line up in the dressing rooms and file onto the stage. We will be on stage during the presentation to the Lord Mayor.

We will stand throughout (it's only 50 minutes). Even though this is a short concert 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.

Please store all music in your black Chorus folders, and wear formal concert dress. 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.](#)

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).

Meeting to organise *Messiah* concert and French / German visit 7 November 2019

The committee would like help from members willing to join them to organise the *Messiah* concert on 18 April, and the visit from French and German colleagues. The first meeting will be at 7.30pm on 7 November 2019, venue to be arranged but will be in Sheffield. As well as planning the concert and accommodation, we are hoping to hold a party for the visitors, and any help or suggestions you may have will be most welcome.

Please let Paul Henstridge know if you'd like to help organise the visit, and whether you are free to attend on 7 November. PaulHenstridge@sheffieldphil.org

Bring a Man Night next week! (attachment)

Don't forget Bring A Man Night on Tuesday 12th November! Men are invited to the music reading workshop from 6.30pm and the main rehearsal at 7.00pm. Bring those men along to sing wonderful music in a great choir with free tuition thrown in if desired. It is not a lifetime commitment but a chance to try us out. Names please to Sally if you know they are coming - or ask them to just turn up on the night. Last time we tried this we gained 15 new men, 8 of whom are still with us – so we know it works.

Missing Rutter *Gloria* scores

If you still haven't returned your Rutter score please make arrangements to get your score to Els Pearce at **49 Westbourne Road Sheffield**. You may need to pay a late return fee; this will be your share of the fine imposed by the Leeds music library for late returns.

Richard Salt collecting for post-AGM cheese and wine social

First bass Richard Salt has been collecting donations for our cheese and wine social for the last two weeks, and will collect from those who haven't yet donated for the next two weeks. The social event will be held immediately after the AGM on Tuesday 19 November. This is a great chance for Chorus members to have a proper chat and most people really enjoy it. Please see Richard if you haven't yet made your donation.

Request - accommodation for visitors from Bochum and from France

There will be over 40 visitors from Bochum, and about the same number from France, for our *Messiah* concert on 18 April 2020. We know that 15 of the German visitors would like to stay with Chorus members, and we're likely to need about the same for the French visitors.

Please can you have a think about whether you could offer to put up a visitor from either France or Germany (or both?!). You don't need a fancy hotel-type room with separate bathroom or anything – just a room with a comfortable bed, access to a bathroom, and a willingness to look after the visitors (provide meals, ferry them to rehearsals etc). 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.

Please let Chair Paul Henstridge know if you feel able to offer our visitors a room in your home, at PaulHenstridge@sheffieldphil.org

Some Chorus members have already been contacted by French and/or German friends with whom they stayed on our choir trips abroad, and arrangements between those friends are in hand. If you haven't heard from the people with whom you stayed, and would like them to stay with you, please feel free to go ahead and make contact.

However, please let Paul know if you've made these arrangements, or plan to make them, so we can keep track of who is staying where – we are obviously keen to be as organised as were our French and German friends during our visits to them!

Revised venue for Messiah – and other 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

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 will now be held in Sheffield cathedral rather than the Victoria Hall.

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