

Read on for: Rehearsal details; revised schedule and rehearsal notes, tracks and recordings for Christmas and Messiah; Time to pay subscriptions; **Urgent - music lost last week**; Thanks re AGM and social; Voice Reps aren't same as Member reps on committee; **More singers especially tenors needed for Christmas electives; tenors and altos needed for Margaret Staniforth funeral**; Updated attendance procedure, singing list etc; accommodation for French/German visitors; Diary dates, Password, Contact emails

Weekly update Sunday 24 November 2019 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal (attachment)

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 26 November in the Upper School. We will be rehearsing Christmas music for the whole of the rehearsal so please don't forget to bring your own copies of Carols for Choirs along with your sheet music. Peter Miles' wife has provided a literal translation of *Resonet in Laudibus* (attached); thanks Peter.

We will hopefully still have lots of visitors, so do continue to be friendly and welcoming as they sing carols with us and decide whether to stay.

The list of carols and running order for the Christmas concert was provided two weeks ago and is on the website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#), along with the arrangements so far for the Christmas carol concerts.

Revised rehearsal schedule, practice tracks and rehearsal notes

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](#).

Time to pay our subscriptions (attachment)

Having agreed at the AGM to maintain the subscription fee at £132, it's now time to pay, and the subscription form is attached – **please remember that everyone needs to complete a new form each year**. Members should complete the form using their full names as recognised by HMRC, otherwise Gift Aid collection will be problematic. Please note that those members that already have a standing order running still need to complete the form in order to receive a membership card. Graham Dawson will collect completed forms and money on Tuesday night and every subsequent Tuesday except 3 December when he'll be in Bochum. It's easier for Graham if members pay by internet bank transfer or standing order, but he is happy to take cheques or cash from those who prefer it. If anyone has difficulty paying for any reason, then please contact Graham – his phone numbers and email address are at the bottom of the subscription form.

Urgent – please hunt for lost music

Jean-Luc Charton could not find his music (the Christmas music plus his own copy of Messiah, which has his name in the front) after our "wine and nibbles" social evening last Tuesday. Please can you check your bags in case someone accidentally picked up Jean-Luc's music with their own and took it home? If you find it please hand it to Jean-Luc or to Chairman Paul or Administrator Anne on Tuesday. Many thanks.

AGM and post-AGM social

Last week we enjoyed a successful AGM and a super post-AGM social. Thanks are due to our President Rachel Copley for her pitch perfect address and for presenting our gifts to John Spence, who was clearly delighted with the wonderful whisky, decanter and glasses – as was Anne Adams for the lovely flowers. Thank you to Helen Kirk and her team of helpers for providing truly scrumptious cheese, nibbles and wine – it was marvellous. Finally, thank you to everyone who helped to clear up afterwards.

Voice Reps and Member Reps on the Committee

The election of Member reps on the committee at the AGM revealed a bit of confusion about these roles, which are NOT the same as the sectional Voice Reps. As was stated in the AGM notice email, Member reps on the committee serve as Trustees of SPC for three years, attending committee meetings in order to represent member views. They have to be elected as Trustees by members at the AGM and must stand down after three years of service.

In contrast, the sectional Voice Reps are not Trustees of SPC, are not therefore elected by members at the AGM and don't attend committee meetings. They can be Voice Reps for as long as they are willing to stay in the role – indeed most of our current Voice Reps have been in role for quite some years. They were listed (with photos) at the back of the Annual Report. Their role is to liaise between the section and Darius about musical matters, keep tabs on attendance and the singing lists etc, as was detailed in the important item about attendance, apologies etc in last week's update (repeated below).

Please sign up for Christmas electives – especially tenors!!!!!!

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our four elective events, the numbers are looking better. However we do need there to be a decent-sized balanced choir for each of these, so please check your diaries and sign the voice part volunteer sheets if you are able to sing at any of the events. **We still need tenors for all dates, including the half hour session at the Millennium Galleries on Wednesday 27 November.** A list of carols will be provided nearer the time – most are 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

Desperately seeking tenors for Margaret Staniforth funeral Friday 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 still only have 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 collect the music from Els this Tuesday.

Reminder - 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](#).

Reminder - French/German visitors

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.

Diary dates

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