

**NO REHEARSAL TOMORROW! HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**URGENT 1 - TENORS and DOOR STAFF NEEDED FOR TICKHILL!!! See below**

**URGENT 2 – CHILDREN’S TOYS LEFT AT CITY HALL!!! See below**

Read on for: Rehearsal details; Tracks / recordings; Return your music; Toys left at City Hall; O Holy Night wins – broadcast tonight; Station Carols; Tickhill concert; Party at Janet Bower’s Thu 19 Dec; Membership cards and subs; Sops and altos needed to sing Holtz’s Planets 30 Dec; Feedback from carol concerts; Thanks; Diary dates, Password, Contact emails

**Weekly update Monday 16 December 2019 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

### **Next rehearsal**

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 7 January 2020 in the Upper School. We will be rehearsing Messiah, so please make sure you bring your music.

### **Rehearsal tracks and notes**

Links to YouTube recordings and voice part rehearsal tracks for Messiah, and to Paul’s rehearsal notes, are on the Chorus website at: [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#).

The 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 below for members area user name and password.

### **Returning music**

Please bring all your Christmas music back to the first rehearsal on 7 January, in the plastic wallet and with all the markings rubbed out. Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

### **Toys left at City Hall**

A carrier bag of children’s toys – obviously Christmas gifts – was left in the men’s changing room on Saturday night. Els Pearse has the bag of toys; she will take them to the station on Tuesday and to Tickhill on Thursday night. Alternatively, please contact her to arrange to call at her home for the toys. [elspearse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elspearse@yahoo.co.uk)

### **O Holy Night wins Classic FM Drive contest**

Our version of *O Holy Night* has been selected as one of the five winning carols in the Classic FM / Making Music carol competition, and will be played sometime between 5pm and 8pm on today - Monday 16 December - on the Classic FM Drive programme. This is the fourth time one of our carols has been chosen, which is fantastic. Thanks to Rachel Mallaband, who submitted our entry.

### **Carols for Heart Research at Sheffield Station Tue 17 December (attachment)**

Thank you to all who have signed up for this jolly event, which will start at 4.15pm and run through to 6.30pm with a short break between what is effectively two repeat sessions. It’s okay to drop in and out. **Paul Henstridge is poorly and may not be able to lead, and Anne Adams is away, so be prepared to organise everything yourselves using the attached carols list.** Best not to do the descants when there’s no accompaniment – it might be great to sing but it sounds odd to the listeners. You need Carols for Choirs and the Sheffield Carols leaflets, so please keep the

two we're using on 14 December at the City Hall. Wrap up in suitably festive but warm gear – it's dry but usually very cold on the station forecourt.

### **Tickhill Thursday 19 December 2019 (attachment) – TENORS and SELLERS PLEASE!**

Thank you to the 10 sopranos, 5 altos, 3 tenors, 7 basses who have volunteered for the concert in Tickhill Parish Church. **Paul Henstridge is poorly and may not be able to go, so another tenor or two would be a life saver – especially for O Holy Night! A few more altos would be great too.** The concert is on Thursday 19 December at 7.30pm (rehearsal 6.30pm). Details including order of service attached (includes St Luke's arrangements). Graham and Louise Dawson will sell tickets, raffle tickets and CDs, but they will need some help please – volunteers please make yourselves known on the night. We will also need someone to sell tickets during the choir rehearsal from 6.30pm – maybe a non-singer who's going to the concert or to Janet's party afterwards? Please help if you can – contact Graham Dawson at [GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org)

### **Bring a dish party at Janet Bower's Thursday 19 December**

All chorus members are invited to a 'bring a dish' party at Janet Bower's home in Tickhill after the carol concert. This is always a fun event and a great chance to get together with chorus friends. Janet's address is Medley Cottage, 56 Castlegate, DN11 9QU. It's five minutes walk from the church, and cars may be parked in the car park near the church which is never locked. **All welcome, but don't go empty handed - please take a contribution to the buffet.**

### **Message from Graham re subs**

Thanks to all those who have paid their subs – about half of the members. Membership cards are now ready and can be collected from Graham on 7 January 2020. The subs were due in November, so please can all those who haven't yet paid, do so as soon as they can. 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. 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 at [GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org).

### **Sopranos and altos needed to sing Holst's Planet Suite on 30 December**

The City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra is performing Holst's Planets on 30 December 2019 as part of their gala alumni concert. They've been let down by the choir that was going to provide 12 female singers. If you are available your contribution would be ever so gratefully received! Please don't respond to this email, as Anne Adams is away, but to Jo Towler (CEO of Music in the Round) at [Jo@musicintheround.co.uk](mailto:Jo@musicintheround.co.uk). Grateful thanks!

### **Feedback re carol concerts**

The concerts went very well, and audience members absolutely loved it. Verbal feedback heard included 'superb as always', 'loved it so much – too short!'; 'wouldn't miss this for the world' and other such comments. From Twitter: 'A fine festive finale to @blackdyke and @sheffphilchorus Christmas concert' (Tom Redmond); 'superb rendition of Hail Smiling Morn by @SheffPhilChorus and @blackdyke'; 'A fabulous evening. A great way to celebrate my son's 14th birthday and kick off Christmas.' And from someone who came to the workshops 'playing your CD at my party, everyone loved it'.

**Thanks**

To everyone who invited someone new to our recruitment rehearsals, and for being friendly and welcoming; we have already gained new members and are probably going to gain a few more. Sally Turnbull for organizing and encouraging the newcomers. Georgina Hulse, for planning and delivering super workshops that attendees enjoyed and found very useful. Rachel Copley for organising St Lukes, the funeral and Tickhill, for conducting us and for being a brilliant President. Els Pearse for continuing to hold the fort as Librarian over the busy Christmas period – so generous. Graham Dawson for organising all things financial and the trip to Bochum. Helen Kirk and her helpers for organising the sherry and mince pies and the Friends event at the carol concert. Ann Garbett and her helpers for making the City Hall stage look amazing with wonderful decorations, all hand made by Ann. Ben Stone and Katie Owens for selling £790 worth of our CDs at the concerts. To everyone who helped at this busy time, including those who has volunteered to sing at the various elective events.

### **Diary dates**

*Elective event – Tuesday 17 December: 4.15 to 6.30 carols at Sheffield Station*

*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](mailto: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 *darius5*. 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)