

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE REHEARSAL WILL BE IN THE LOWER SCHOOL (see below)**

Read on for: Rehearsal details **inc Lower School location etc**; Rehearsal notes, tracks and recordings; Outstanding subs; **Ticket sales**; Reminders - Classical Sheffield festival 2021, possible dates for next season, invitation to sing Mahler 2; Diary dates, Websites and passwords, Contact emails

**Weekly update Sunday 9 February 2020 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

### **Next rehearsal**

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 11 February 2020 **in the Lower School**, when we will be rehearsing the Verdi *Requiem*.

The rehearsal will be in the Sports Hall, Lower School, Darwin Lane, Sheffield, S10 5RG; there's a Google map on this link to [the school's website](#).

On arrival please walk round the building to the right of the entrance and turn left around the high brick wall into to the back entrance, which takes you directly into the Sports Hall. Please leave via the same route at the end.

The Lower School is well used for sports activities which unfortunately makes parking difficult; you may need to park some distance away, so do allow extra time.

For those travelling by bus the 51 service runs along Sandygate Road and it is a 15 minute walk from Crosspool Post Office along Watt Lane and down Darwin Lane to the school gate. The 120 service runs along Fulwood Road and it is a 13 minute uphill walk from Fulwood Road along Tapton Park Road and Darwin Lane to the school gate. For further information see the [Travel South Yorkshire website](#).

### **Rehearsal tracks and notes (attachment)**

Chairman Paul's rehearsal notes from Darius for the Verdi *Requiem*, are attached – please amend your scores if you weren't there on Tuesday. The notes, along with links to YouTube recordings and voice part rehearsal tracks for the Verdi, 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](#). Scroll to the end for members area user name and password.

### **Urgent - outstanding subs**

Subs were due in November 2019, and anyone who still hasn't paid needs to see Graham Dawson as soon as possible in order to maintain their membership of the Chorus. Membership cards can be collected from Graham at rehearsal if you still haven't collected yours. [GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org).

### **Ticket sales**

Ticket sales so far for *Messiah* = 8.

Our target for *Messiah* is to sell ALL the available tickets, ie 350. Tickets cost £20 and £5 (under 25s) and were made available online last week, at <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/496865>. There's a link on the Chorus website and on the Classical Sheffield website. We are thinking about printing a number of tickets to sell at rehearsals, in which case there won't be the 10% booking fee that WeGotTickets are charging. They'll also be available at the Sheffield cathedral shop. All the tickets are unallocated, so it will be first come first served on the night.

Ticket sales so far for the Verdi *Requiem* = 623.

Just to remind members that the City Hall's standard target for the Sheffield International Concert Season (SICS) choral concerts is 1,300, which is 57% of the total capacity of 2,270. The target is set lower than the break-even number, ie, at a level which results in an acceptable loss to the three partners that between them underwrite the choral concerts (Sheffield International Venues, the Halle Concert Society and SPC). All three partners have made a loss on all the SICS choral concerts for quite some years. Figures show that choral concerts sell fewer tickets than orchestral concerts. For example, the most popular choral concert in the last five years was the Mozart *Requiem* in 2017, for which ticket sales were 1,259, ie didn't quite reach the target. The two 2019 Christmas concerts sold 1,370 ie 60% (2pm) and 1,084 ie 48% (5.30pm), or 2,454 in total, which is about the same as in previous years. Choral concerts usually get around 400 people turning up on the night, so the pre-concert sales need to reach about 1,000 to safely reach the target, and more to avoid the concert making a loss for the three partners.

The overall message, for both SICS and self-funded concerts, is that all efforts made by members to help sell tickets are efforts well spent!

### **News about our recording of 'O Holy Night'**

A chap called David Carter from the Devon and Cornwall Salvation Army band rang Anne Adams last week, asking for Darius' arrangements of 'O Holy Night', 'Calypso Carol' and 'Hail Smiling Morn', so the Devon and Cornwall band could learn them to perform at a big Christmas concert in 2020. He had bought our 'Awake Arise' CD after hearing 'O Holy Night' on the Classic FM Drive programme shortly before Christmas, and was extremely impressed – he says he played the CD repeatedly over the festive season. You may know that Classical FM listeners voted 'O Holy Night' the nation's favourite carol for the fourth consecutive year. It's won 15 times over the years and they always play the Kings College Cambridge recording. David reported that they played our version of the carol for the first time, which is great news.

### **Reminder - launch of 2021 Classical Sheffield Festival on Fri 28 February 2020**

Classical Sheffield is holding an event to launch the next weekend festival, which will run from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 March 2021 with a theme of 'Collaboration'. SPC has already agreed to take part in the final concert of the weekend, a performance of Mahler's 2nd Symphony at the City Hall on Sunday 7 March, in collaboration with Hallam Choral Society, Hallam Sinfonia and Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra.

The launch event is on Friday 28 February, 6.00 - 8.00pm at the Montgomery Theatre and is a chance to find out more about the next Classical Weekend and to gather ideas and questions. Also, Theresa Keogh, new director of the Montgomery, will speak about their plans for re-developing the building, making it fully accessible, and the wide variety of spaces they currently have on offer for groups to use at very reasonable rates. There will also be the opportunity to look around the building.

It would be great for SPC to have a representative or two at the launch, to gather information and meet with other Classical Sheffield members. If you are willing to attend on our behalf, please contact Anne Adams by replying to this weekly update.

### **Reminder - possible dates for next season**

Details of next season are still being worked out, but for members wanting to book holidays etc, it's looking like the dates you may need to avoid if you can are Friday 6<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Saturday 12th December 2020, Thursday 21st January 2021, Sunday 7 March 2021, Sat 12th June 2021.

## **Reminder - support Sheffield's young musicians: Mahler 2 Mon 13 April 2020, City Hall**

We are invited to sing in the choir for the finale of Mahler's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony on Monday 13th April (Easter Monday). This is a great way to support the young musicians of the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra in a concert featuring soloists Elizabeth Cragg, soprano, and Anna Harvey, Mezzo soprano. For more information and to sign-up please use the form at [Choir Registration](#). Please feel free to pass this invitation on to colleagues and friends. [www.csyo.org.uk](http://www.csyo.org.uk)

### **Diary dates**

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, Chorus and Classical Sheffield websites and passwords**

If ever you don't receive the weekly update, please contact Membership Officer Marianne Grayson at [MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org). However 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.

A reminder of the Classical Sheffield Member's Area: <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/about> ; the password is **moremusic**.

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

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

**Privacy Policy – summary** SPC uses member emails in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) May 2018, ie, only to help run the Chorus and keep members informed about SPC activities. SPC will never pass your data to third parties - if another member asks for your contact details SPC will only ever share them if you consent. SPC will never use your data to send messages from third parties. Weekly updates are uploaded to the Chorus website every week, however email is the easiest and quickest method of sharing information so we hope you continue to allow us to send them to you. However, you may opt out by contacting [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org). The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>