

**Important: tell us if you can't sing in Messiah concert; update re Mahler 8 scores (see below)**

Read on for: Rehearsal details inc notes from Darius; Rehearsal notes, tracks and recordings; **Important update about Mahler 8 scores; Request for singers for Sue Spence's funeral; Request for names of members NOT singing in *Messiah* concert; Publicity for French choir concerts (attachments); Ticket sales; Update re arrangements so far for German/French visit; Last chance for Gov consultation on music education; Diary dates inc compulsory rehearsals and possible dates next season; Reminders - Uni alumni music weekend, invitation to sing Mahler 2; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails**

**Weekly update Sunday 1 March 2020 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

### **Next rehearsal**

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 3 February 2020 in KES Upper School, when we will be rehearsing Verdi before the break and Mahler 8 after it. **Please find enclosed Mahler 8 notes from Darius in case you didn't get them last week – it is very important that everyone reads these carefully and marks their score as directed.**

These notes from Darius, together with recordings and rehearsal tracks for the Mahler 8, are on the Chorus website at: [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#). To provide an example of the resources stored there, here's a direct link to [the separate voice parts on Choralia for Mahler 8](#).

### **Rehearsal tracks and notes**

Links to rehearsal tracks and You Tube recordings for the Mahler 8, Verdi *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah*, together with Chairman 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](#). Scroll to the end for members area user name and password.

### **Important update about Mahler scores**

Given the need to make the spiral bound scores easier to use, the promoters of the Mahler 8 concert have told us that we do not need to return them, so members can keep them after the concert. This means you can split the score, highlight your voice part and anything else you would like to do to make it easier for you to use. Members who have bought their own score still have the distinct advantage of a much lighter score. However, please let Anne Adams know if you would not have purchased a score had you known you could keep the spiral bound version.

Darius recommends splitting the spiral bound scores to make them lighter – though some members prefer to be able to follow the music in its entirety. If you decide to split the score, do it in such a way as to separate parts 1 and 2. You could also remove some pages where we don't sing if you want to make it even lighter. You can remove pages 105-109 and 116-122 (tenors and basses 115-132); sopranos could remove everything between 105 and 122 if they prefer. For this concert it will be fine to punch holes in the separated score and place it in a black ring binder instead of your black folder.

### **Request for singers for Sue Spence's funeral**

John Spence lost his dear wife Sue two weeks ago, and he has asked for volunteers to sing at Sue's funeral, which will be held at Grenoside Crematorium on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 1:00

pm. John has asked that volunteers sing two of Sue's favourites – the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei from Faure's *Requiem*. Many members will have their own score, but the Chorus has about a dozen if not. Our President, soprano Rachel Copley, has kindly agreed to conduct, and bass Christopher Wren has been equally generous in offering to play the organ. There may be a rehearsal in the morning. We will be joining members of the Sheffield Oratorio Chorus, which was the choir to which Sue belonged. The funeral will be followed by a private interment in Sue's parent's grave in Rivelin Cemetery for family and Sue's very close personal friends only. There will be a hot buffet reception after the funeral, probably at Whitley Hall, to which everyone attending the funeral will be invited, including the choir and professionals. The ceremony will be recorded so that John can send a recording to Sue's many friends around the world (especially from her sailing days) who will not be able to attend.

John needs to know catering numbers fairly soon, so please tell Anne Adams ([administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)) if you are able to sing, stating name, chorus number, voice part, whether you have your own copy of the Faure *Requiem* and whether you will be attending the hot buffet reception afterwards. Please also let Anne know if a non-singing partner or other family member will be accompanying you to the funeral, ie by virtue of being friends of Sue and John.

Flowers and/or donations to the Alzheimer's Society, entirely at the donor's discretion, should be sent to Mr Jason Heath at John Heath & Sons.

### **Important – request for names of those not singing Messiah**

It's great that members are following the request from Darius for us to attend rehearsals even if we can't sing in the associated concert – many thanks! However, we now urgently need to know how many of the Chorus will NOT be singing in the Messiah concert, for whatever reason. If you are NOT able to sing in the Messiah concert on Saturday 18 April 2020, please email Membership Officer Marianne Grayson at [MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org) as soon as you can. Grateful thanks.

### **Publicity for French choir concerts (attachments)**

French choir members are putting on two concerts during their visit to us in April. Please can you publicise these concerts as widely as possible, using the attached e-flyers. The concerts are on Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April (Buxton) and Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April (Malton). It would be great if you could also support the concerts by attending one or both of them.

### **Ticket sales – Messiah tickets for sale on Tuesday**

Ticket sales so far for *Messiah* = at least 94 (?? cathedral shop + 52 online + 42 rehearsal).

Tickets will be on sale on Tuesday at rehearsal, without the 10% booking fee being charged online. Correct change if possible please, or cheques made payable to Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. Tickets will also be available at the Sheffield cathedral shop, again without the booking fee. All tickets are unallocated, so it will be first come first served on the night.

Our target for Messiah is to sell ALL the available tickets, ie 350. Tickets cost £20 and £5 (under 25s) and are available online at <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/496865>. There's a link on the Chorus website and on the Classical Sheffield website.

Ticket sales so far for the Verdi *Requiem* = 657.

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 of 1300, and more to avoid the concert making a loss for the three partners (Sheffield International Venues, the Halle Concert Society and SPC).

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!

### **Messiah – update re arrangements for the French and German visit**

We are expecting around 90 visitors from Germany and France, which is great!

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April. German visitors arrive.

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> April. Trip to Haddon Hall for German visitors. French visitors arrive around 18.30.

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> April. Guided tours of central Sheffield combined with tours of the Town Hall given by the Lord Mayor. Compulsory choir rehearsal at KES 19.00.

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> April. *Messiah* tutti rehearsal 14.00 to 17.30, concert 19.00. Post-concert party at Cutlers Hall for performers, Lord Mayor, Friends of the Chorus. We are looking forward to hosting a superb party in this magnificent venue. Tickets £10 to include canapés and first drink.

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April. German visitors trip to be arranged, depart for airport around 3pm. French trip to Buxton followed by concert given by them in the evening. It would be great if members of the Chorus could support by attending this concert.

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April. French visitors visit York, concert given by them in Malton in the evening. It would be great if members of the Chorus could support by attending this concert.

Tue 21 April. French visitors fly home.

### **Last chance - Government consultation on music education**

Many Chorus members will be keen to contribute to the Government's consultation on music education, which closes on 13 March 2020. [Here's a link to information about the Government plans](#), which contains a link to the online consultation (Call for Evidence).

### **Diary dates including compulsory rehearsals**

Saturday 18 April 2020 7pm – *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band in Sheffield cathedral. Tutti rehearsal 14.00. Compulsory choir rehearsal Friday 17 April 19.00 to 21.15.

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)

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 (fixed – Mahler 2 for Classical Sheffield Festival finale), Sat 12th June 2021.

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](#).

### **Reminder - University of Sheffield alumni music weekend 25-26 April 2020**

The University of Sheffield is looking for singers and orchestral players for a special alumni music weekend of the 25th and 26th of April 2020. The repertoire will be decided when they

know numbers and availability. If you studied at the university and are interested, please contact the Music Programme Producer, University of Sheffield Concerts, 0114 222 0492 or [concerts@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:concerts@sheffield.ac.uk) as soon as you can.

### **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 - and to revise the Mahler 2 before we sing it next March. The concert features 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)

### **What to do if your contact details change**

If any of your contact details change, including address, email or telephone number, 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/>