

**URGENT: TUESDAY'S REHEARSAL IS IN THE LOWER SCHOOL. Plus Altos needed! (see below)**

Read on for: Rehearsal details; Rehearsal notes, tracks and recordings; **Important clarification re Mahler 8 Saturday rehearsals; Request by Darius to remove parts of Mahler 8 scores; Sue Spence's funeral – collect music on Tuesday; Ticket sales; Need names NOT singing *Messiah*; French choir concerts; German/French visit; Diary dates inc compulsory rehearsals and possible dates next season; Reminders - invitation to sing Mahler 2; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails**

**Weekly update Sunday 8 March 2020 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

### **Next rehearsal – IS IN THE LOWER SCHOOL**

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 10 February 2020, when we will be rehearsing the Verdi. **Unfortunately we will have to rehearse in the Lower School as there is a concert in the main hall where we usually rehearse.** Scott the caretaker wasn't informed about this until a few days ago, so we have only just received the message; the school is reducing our hire fee slightly to compensate.

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](#).

Please note that all rehearsals until further notice will go on to 21.15.

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

Chairman Paul Henstridge's rehearsal notes for the Verdi, updated following last week's part rehearsal, are attached. His notes for *Messiah*, the Verdi and the Mahler 8, plus a link to the Mahler 8 notes recently circulated by Darius, together with recordings and rehearsal tracks, are all 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](#)

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 clarification about the two Saturday rehearsals for the Mahler 8**

Message from Darius: *'The status of the two Saturday rehearsals for the Mahler 8 is not completely clear on the rehearsal schedule, so this is to clarify as a few people have asked about it. The first of the two Saturdays is the conductor's piano rehearsal, which is compulsory and also counts towards your attendance requirement. The second is the tutti (ie with*

orchestra) rehearsal, which is also compulsory but does not count towards your attendance requirement (in the same way that the final afternoon rehearsal on a concert day doesn't count).

Because this is a big commitment we can be flexible and allow a limited number of people to miss either (but not both) of the Saturday rehearsals - but only if their attendance otherwise is comfortably within 75%. If we get a large number of people trying to do this however, I'm sure you will appreciate it's not sustainable, as the conductor needs a good idea of the balance for the concert. Best wishes, Darius'

### **Important amendment to the note about splitting Mahler scores**

Darius requests that we split the spiral bound scores partly to make them lighter but also so that we aren't turning pages when we aren't singing, which will look and sound terrible. Split the score in such a way as to separate parts 1 and 2. Please remove the pages where we don't sing, ie remove pages 105-109 and 116-122 (tenors and basses 115-132); sopranos remove everything between 105 and 122.

For this concert it is okay to use a black ring binder instead of your black folder, ie, you can punch holes in the separated score and place it in a black ring binder.

We don't need to return the scores, so members can keep them after the concert. This means you can mark your voice part with a highlighter, 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.

### **Sue Spence's funeral – desperately seeking altos!**

Thank you to the 12 sopranos, 5 altos, 6 tenors and 10 basses who have volunteered to sing at Sue Spence's funeral, which will be held at Grenoside Crematorium on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 1:00 pm. We will be joined by 2 sopranos, 1 alto and 2 tenors from Sheffield Oratorio Chorus, the choir to which Sue belonged - so we'll have 14 sopranos, 6 altos, 8 tenors and 10 basses in total. **ALTOS PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR DIARIES AND VOLUNTEER TO JOIN US IF YOU CAN.** 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 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.

We will sing the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei from Faure's *Requiem*. The Chorus has about a dozen scores for those who don't have their own – PLEASE COLLECT THESE FROM ELS ON TUESDAY. Our President, soprano Rachel Copley, has kindly agreed to conduct, and bass Peter Verity has been equally generous in offering to play the organ.

There will probably be a rehearsal at a nearby church on the Wednesday morning around 11.00 or 11.30am – details to follow .

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.

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

Ticket sales so far for *Messiah* = at least 150 (?? cathedral shop + 61 online + 75 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, £10 (disabled) and £5 (under 25s) and are available 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* = 667.

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). Pre-sales are going up by about 10 per week, and if they pick up nearer the date might make 800 - which won't reach the target. PLEASE DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN YOU PUBLICISE THIS CONCERT!

### **Reminder – 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.

### **Reminder - Publicity for French choir concerts**

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 e-flyers you will find at the links below. It would be great if you could also support the concerts by attending one or both of them.

Buxton concert Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April [Buxton concert flyer](#)

Malton concert Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April [Malton concert flyer](#)

### **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* seating rehearsal 13.00, 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; these will be available at rehearsals in a few weeks time.

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.

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

Saturday 18 April 2020 7pm – Messiah concert with Black Dyke Band in Sheffield cathedral. Seating rehearsal 13.00, tutti rehearsal 14.00. Compulsory choir rehearsal at KES on Friday 17 April 19.00 to 21.15 (possibly followed by visit to local pub for Chorus and visitors)

Friday 1 May 2020 – compulsory piano rehearsal for Verdi *Requiem* with conductor Gianluca Marcianó in the Victoria Hall, tutti rehearsal City Hall Saturday 2 May 2020 from 2pm to 5pm (concert at 7pm)

TWO compulsory 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). A limited number of people will be allowed to miss either (but not both) of these Saturday rehearsals - but only if their attendance otherwise is comfortably within 75%.

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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, Sunday 7 March 2021 (fixed – Mahler 2 for Classical Sheffield Festival finale), Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 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 - 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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/>