

Read on for: Next rehearsal - update; Vocal Exercises 4 (attached); Maggie's concerts; Music in the Round free on-line festival; Subscriptions update; Musical resources (updated); Diary dates, Reminders - *Messiah* refunds; support, subscriptions, Georgina's lessons; Take care; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Update Sunday 10 May 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal - update

The committee held a virtual meeting via Zoom last week and agreed that re-commencing live rehearsals in September is looking increasingly unlikely, and that concerts will probably not re-commence until January 2021 at the earliest.

Prior to the meeting Darius had arranged for Rachel, Marianne and Anne to attend a Bournemouth Symphony Chorus virtual rehearsal. Despite the limitations, their experience was a positive one, and the committee agreed that setting up something similar for the Chorus would be very worthwhile.

Darius and Rachel are therefore going to look at the possibility of setting up some form of non-mandatory on-line rehearsal, probably using Zoom, aiming for a trial run sometime in June. If it works out, invitations to join the trial will be issued in a future update, so watch this space!

Vocal Exercises 4

Rachel and Maggie have produced the fourth set of exercises (attached). Thanks both! They are also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing Your Voice](#)

Maggie's 'concerts'

Every Saturday evening Maggie dresses in concert gear and sings the mezzo soprano or alto solo from one of the works in which she had been scheduled to appear prior to the lock-down. She sits during chorus numbers, just as she would in a real performance. A number of members of SPC and the Halle chorus are spending their Saturday evenings in a similar way, singing the chorus numbers to their own recording of the same work. The reason is to keep their voices in good shape and 'concert-ready' – and for fun, a sense of solidarity and shared endeavour. Maggie sang Haydn's *Maria Theresa Mass* last evening, and her remaining Saturday evening 'concerts' are as follows:

May 16 - Verdi *Requiem*; June 6 - Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*; June 13 - Brahms *Alto Rhapsody*; June 20 - Rutter *Feel the Spirit*; June 27 - Elgar *Dream of Gerontius*; July 4 - Mahler *Symphony No. 8*.

Music in the Round free online festival 15 and 16 May 2020

Music in the Round will present their first ever free online festival of music this May. [Sheffield Chamber Music Festival at home](#) (#SCMFhome) will feature more than a dozen performances, talks and family events, all launching on the [Music in the Round YouTube channel](#) over two days on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May. The online schedule will feature solos and duos from many of the Ensemble 360 musicians and guest artists, eg international guitarist Craig Ogden, Mercury Music Prize-nominee Gavin Bryars, and acclaimed folk musicians Fay Hield and Rob Harbron.

Families can watch one of Music in the Round's acclaimed concerts for children aged 3 – 7 years, the recording of *Sir Scallywag* and the *Battle of Stinky Bottom*, originally live-streamed to Sheffield Children's Hospital in November last year, and publicly available for the first

time. There will also be a specially-created Concerteenies event featuring violinist Benjamin Nabarro and cellist Gemma Rosefield, for younger children aged 3 and under.

The festival is free to everyone, but donations to support the freelance musicians can be made at <https://bit.ly/DonateMitR> No tickets needed. Just go to <https://bit.ly/MitRYouTube>

Subscriptions update

When the outlook for the future is clearer, committee members will consider the implications for subscriptions for 2020-21. It's quite likely that the recommendation will be to reduce the subscription rate. Subscription rates must be agreed by members at the AGM, which is in November 2020 and is likely to be a virtual affair.

In the meantime, for simplicity and to enable us to continue to pay our professionals, the current subscription process has been left as it is, so if you pay by standing order and are able, please continue with your payments. However, if you are facing financial difficulty, please contact Graham Dawson who, in confidence, will look to changing you onto the reduced rate and provide any necessary reimbursement by bank transfer or cheque. Please also contact Graham if you were kind enough to gift aid your subscription but your circumstances have now changed and you need to cancel the gift aid mandate.

Graham's contact details are: GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org, telephone 01226 730100.

Musical resources

A From Making Music

1. Keep enjoying music (updated)

We all know how good just listening to music is for the soul. So much music already exists online and through national and local broadcasts, and lots more is being added.

- [Jonathan Scott online organ recital from Albion Church](#) ends with Widor's Toccata
- [Roderick Williams and family](#) - lock-down concert from their home
- Tom Leech's on-line singing sessions for primary children
www.schoolssingingprogramme.org.uk
- St John's Passion from Isolation featuring Daniel Norman (Evangelist), Roderick Williams (Jesus), a range of soloists including Catherine Wyn-Rogers and James Gilchrist, with contributions from the Kings Singers and The Sixteen among others. The [digital programme](#) lists participants, the different episodes and chorale music.
- Another isolation concert, this time [Tenebrae on BBC i-player](#) (you will need to sign in).
- Classical Sheffield's administrator, Kate Shipway, herself a choral conductor, has produced a guide to virtual choir activities; see [Hints and tips for virtual choirs on the Classical Sheffield website](#)
- Classic FM have produced an extremely comprehensive and regularly updated list of the [best live-streamed and classical concerts available online](#).
- First Position Strings (a Sheffield viola ensemble) [online recording of Bach's O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden](#) – look out for first soprano Katrina Hulse.
- Orchestra of Opera North's [online performance of Strauss' 'Also Sprach Zarathustra'](#).
- Jonathan Scott's harmonium and piano recital with his brother Tom at their home in Manchester: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKsCOmMi5QY&feature=youtu.be>
- Jonathan Scott's super online organ recital from the Bridgewater Hall at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm3x-74Ybhq&feature=youtu.be>

- Classic FM's list of choirs and orchestras that have performed at-home concerts <https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/coronavirus/self-isolating-choirs-orchestras-perform-concerts/>
- Choraline's Self Isolation Choir <https://www.theseisolationchoir.com/>
- On a lighter note: [Beethoven 5 video](#) (well worth watching)
- The Stay At Home Choir's Vivaldi Gloria <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0t2ni2QwY8&feature=youtu.be>
- Zurich Opera House's Verdi Requiem <https://www.opernhaus.ch/en/spielplan/streaming/messa-da-requiem/>
- Berlin Philharmonika's digital concerts are free for 30 days following use of the voucher available at <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home>
- The music section of this [Chatter Pack article](#) lists some streaming of live performances and pre-recorded concerts.
- [New York Metropolitan Opera](#)
- [Vienna State Opera](#)
- [Chamber Music Scotland](#)
- [What's on Stage](#) has listings of online performances (musicals and opera).
- Live Music Now Scotland's series of living room concerts [LMNS YouTube channel](#).
- National Youth Choirs of Scotland [Facebook page](#) - performances & singing exercises.
- Royal Scottish National Orchestra Friday night viewings [YouTube Channel](#).
- [Black Dress Code](#) digital concert hall - fee charged, passed on to musicians.
- The BBC are offering new classical content as part of their [Culture in Quarantine](#) festival.
- [Get Creative UK](#) festival and [Make Music Day](#) on 21 June are both going digital.

2 Virtual choirs

- Link to [Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir](#)
- [The Sofa Singers](#), led by James Sills
- [Great British Home Chorus](#), led by Gareth Malone OBE
- [Stay at Home Choir](#)
- [Distant-Sing](#), run by our corporate member, Choir Community
- [Duet Yourself](#) (on Facebook)
- [Corona Virus Choir](#) (on Facebook)
- [Choir Choir Choir](#), led by Nobu Adilman and Daveed Goldman (on Facebook)

3 Make music yourself

- Free music download from [Pennine Music](#)
- [Acapella](#) is an app that lets you create and share music with each other.
- Learn an instrument online using YouTube tutorials and online lessons (eg [Your Space Music](#)).
- [Black Dress Code](#) allows musicians to stream performances, audiences charged a fee which is passed on to performers; email info@blackdresscode.com for info.
- [Part play](#) a practice companion instrumental app especially good for stringed instruments - play your part along to a professional ensemble backing track.
- There are lots of free music (and other) courses with [Open University](#)

4 Make music with your group

- [Ways to make your choir sparkle](#) – by the Kings Singers
- [Chorus Connection](#) on running an online choir rehearsal.
- [Facebook Live](#) – 'how to' and 'top tips' guide to rehearsing online.

- [Zoom](#) has a free version for up to 100 participants for 40 minutes. Video tutorial '[Music Mode' on YouTube](#), and every Friday at 12.30pm GMT. [Register online](#).
- [Google Hangouts](#) is another alternative.

5 Platforms for social meet-ups rather than being music specific:

- [Discord](#)
- [Whereby](#)

B Resources already on the Chorus website (in [Members Area / Rehearsals](#))

- [Brahms Songs of Destiny](#) on You Tube with score
- [Rehearsal Notes Verdi Requiem 8 Mar](#)
- [Verdi Requiem on You Tube](#)
- [Verdi Requiem Voice parts on Choralia](#)
- [Verdi Requiem voice parts on CyberBass](#)
- [Verdi Requiem voice parts on Chord Perfect](#)
- [Guide to Verdi Requiem](#)
- [Mahler8choirnotes](#)
- [Mahler 8 on YouTube](#)
- [Mahler 8 mp3 voice parts on Choralia](#)
- [Mahler 8 on Choraline](#)
- [Rehearsal notes for Messiah](#)
- [Messiah Choruses on You Tube with score](#)
- [Messiah Voice mp3 parts on Choralia](#)
- [Messiah online parts on CyberBass](#)
- [Video lessons to improve your skills in rhythm, tonal centering, and intervals](#)
- [Worksheets to go with the video lessons](#)
- [How do singers protect their voices?](#)
- [How opera singers take care of their voices](#)
- [Take care of your voice – British Voice Association](#)
- [Vocal health section of The Vocalist website](#)
- [Sing for Pleasure's Vocal health leaflet](#)
- [NIDCD advice on taking care of your voice](#)
- [Link to Maggie's vocal exercises](#)

Diary dates

Dates for 2020-21 - may yet be postponed or cancelled: Friday 6 November 2020 (After Hours concert), Saturday 12 December 2020 (Christmas carol concerts 2pm and 5.30pm)

Dates for 2021: Sunday 24 January 2021 (SICS concert), Sunday 7 March 2021 (Mahler 2 for Classical Sheffield festival), Sat 19 June 2021 (Faure Requiem – self funded but with some support from Halle Concert Society and SIV).

Yet to be confirmed: Easter 2021 (eg Saturday 10 April or thereabouts) re-scheduled Messiah concert ; May 2021 self funded concert in the cathedral, programme to be arranged but may include Rachmaninov's Vespers.

Dates for 2021-22 under discussion: Re-scheduled Mahler 8 possibly in May or June 2022.

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 - Messiah refunds

We are currently still investigating a re-schedule to next Easter. Members who bought tickets at rehearsal can exchange them for re-scheduled concert tickets in the future. If you prefer to get a re-fund and re-purchase nearer the time, please contact Finance Officer Graham Dawson (GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org), stating how many tickets you purchased at each price, and supplying your bank details. Graham will reimburse you via a bank transfer. NB - this includes folk who purchased their tickets from the cathedral shop, which is currently not responding to people requesting refunds. We will inform the cathedral that we have made the refunds.

Reminder - support

Louise Dawson, Julian Sullivan and Allan Lacey, will talk to any member feeling worried, isolated or lonely during this difficult time. If anyone wants to talk with them (it doesn't have to be a religious discussion) then they should contact one of them by email in the first instance. louise@revdawson.co.uk; j.v.sullivan@btinternet.com; AllanLacey@sheffieldphil.org Dick Williams has offered to talk to anyone who wishes – on 0114 2308358. Thank you to all.

Reminder – singing lessons from Georgina Hulse

Georgina Hulse, our Education and Outreach Officer, is offering online singing lessons at a reduced rate. If you are interested contact her on 07932 999935 or gs_hulse@hotmail.com

Take care

It goes without saying that everyone needs to look after themselves and their loved ones at this difficult time, so that collectively we look after one another. Unfortunately there are people who will use the situation as an opportunity, so be careful of fraud, including, we are told, individuals offering free (but bogus) Covid 19 tests in an attempt to get into people's homes.

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 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. 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 *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.

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

Chair Paul Henstridge chairman@sheffieldphil.org

Administrator Anne Adams 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. The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>