

Read on for: Next rehearsal; Vocal exercises; Darius update; Verdi *Requiem* update; Mahler 8 update; Diary dates update; Reminders – *Messiah*, support, subscriptions, Georgina's lessons; Musical resources (updated); Take care; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Update Sunday 12 April 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal

As you know, all rehearsals have been cancelled and our next three concerts either cancelled or postponed. We will hopefully meet again on Tuesday 1 September 2020.

Vocal exercises (attachment)

Please find attached the next instalment of the vocal exercises. Thank you, Maggie and Rachel. They will be added to the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing Your Voice](#).

Darius - update

Darius is currently creating brass arrangements for 'And he shall purify', 'How beautiful' and 'The Lord gave the word', so that when we eventually sing *Messiah* we won't have to miss these out. He's also working on an item for the Christmas carol concerts, and on something we can sing on informal occasions.

Verdi *Requiem* – update

The Halle Concert Society (which organises all the Sheffield International Concert Series concerts) has CANCELLED the Verdi Requiem which will NOT take place in September 2020. SPC is responsible for contracting and paying soloists for all our SICS concerts, and in view of the difficulties musicians are currently experiencing we decided to pay the four Verdi *Requiem* soloists 10% of their fee, ie, £175 each, for which they are very grateful. We hope members approve of this decision.

Mahler 8 - update

Concert postponed. Re-schedule date yet to be arranged, but may be May or June 2022 (not 2021 as was erroneously reported last week).

Diary dates - update

Dates for next season still to be confirmed but will probably be: Friday 6 November 2020 (After Hours concert), Saturday 12 December 2020 (Christmas carol concerts 2pm and 5.30pm), 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).

It's also possible that the *Messiah* concert will be re-scheduled to a date around Easter 2021, eg Saturday 10 April or thereabouts.

We are also considering a self funded concert in the cathedral in May 2021, programme to be arranged but may include Rachmaninov's Vespers.

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*

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.

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 - Membership Subscriptions

From Graham Dawson: As Finance Officer I have received a few enquiries relating to membership subscriptions in light of the fact that we have ceased rehearsals and postponed concerts because of the Covid-19 issue. It is worth pointing out that, despite the fact that we agree our subscription rates at the AGM which is usually held in November each year, our financial year is August to July and so we are now a good way through the season. Members either pay in one lump sum or by a variety of standing orders typically in 6,7,8 or 12 monthly instalments.

At the moment Committee members feel that we do have a duty of care for Darius, Rachel and Maggie as their incomes have virtually stopped over night. We plan to continue to pay them at the budgeted amounts in return for them providing musical services for SPC in line with our stated constitutional aims instead of conducting rehearsals. More information about this will come out in shortly, but the sorts of work anticipated are composing or arranging items for our Christmas concert, providing vocal exercises for all of us during the months we cannot meet etc. So all members will gain from this work and it will provide some sort of link between us through this difficult time.

Given all this, the Committee feels that at this time we should leave the subscription process where it is and not embark on a complex process of getting the whole membership to agree different rates via some form of special (electronic?) AGM and then trying to work out how to reimburse differing amounts to everyone. So, if you pay by standing order and are able, please continue with your payments.

Unfortunately some of our members will suddenly find themselves with a much reduced income. If you are one of those facing financial difficulty and have paid the full amount in a lump sum or are paying the full amount in instalments by standing order, please contact me and in confidence I will look to changing you onto the reduced rate and provide any necessary reimbursement by bank transfer or cheque.

Additionally, 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, please contact me to sort that out.

After the financial year end and when it becomes clearer when rehearsals can resume and concerts planned, the Committee will consider the resultant financial situation and make an appropriate recommendation for next season's membership subscriptions for discussion and determination at the AGM. At this stage it would be crystal-ball gazing to guess what next season's subscription rates should be!

My contact details are: GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org, telephone 01226 730100.

Reminder – singing lessons from Georgina Hulse

Georgina, our Education and Outreach Officer, sent the following message: “*It’s important we all keep singing over the next few months whether that is in the car, round the house, online with Gareth Malone, or trying and online lesson. For the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic shutdown I am offering online singing lessons at a reduced rate. If you are interested contact me on 07932 999935 or gs_hulse@hotmail.com*”

Musical resources (section 3 updated)

A From Making Music

1 Virtual choirs

- [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)

2 Make music yourself

- Free music download from [Pennine Music](#)
- Free brass music from [Lode for Publishing](#) – plus an online challenge to create your own recording
- [Acapella](#) is an app that lets you create and share music with each other.
- Learn an instrument online. If you have time on your hands, why not dig out that old trumpet and get practicing. There are lots of YouTube tutorials out there to help as well as professionals offering online lessons (our Corporate Member [Your Space Music](#), for example).
- Our corporate member, [Black Dress Code](#), is turning their website into a temporary digital concert hall to allow musicians to stream performances. Audiences will be charged a fee to watch, which will then be passed on to performers. Email info@blackdresscode.com for more information.
- [Part play](#) is a practice companion instrumental app that's 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](#)

3. Keep enjoying music

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, who played harmonium at our ‘Petite Messe Solonelle’ concert in the ballroom in June 2018, gave a super online organ recital from the Bridgewater Hall and it’s still available to watch and listen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm3x-74Ybhq&feature=youtu.be>
- Choraline is offering a unique opportunity for everyone to come together and sing from our own homes in the form of one global choir - an experience not to miss. Register on the Self Isolation Choir website <https://www.theseffisolationchoir.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 free digital concerts 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).
- You can follow Live Music Now Scotland's new series of living room concerts using the Twitter hashtag [#TogetheratHomeLMNS](#), or watch them all on the [LMNS YouTube channel](#).
- [#CovidCeilidh](#) on Twitter provides a stream of Ceilidh music to cheer your day along.
- Member group the National Youth Choirs of Scotland has a [Facebook page](#) with videos of performances and singing exercise to try.
- The Royal Scottish National Orchestra are doing Friday night viewings of footage never seen before on their [YouTube Channel](#), they also have some fun musical challenges.
- Our corporate member, [Black Dress Code](#) is turning their website into a temporary digital concert hall to allow musicians to stream performances. Audiences will be charged a fee to watch, which will then be passed on to performers. Email info@blackdresscode.com for more information.
- The BBC are offering new classical content as part of their [Culture in Quarantine](#) festival.
- There's also the great news - [Get Creative UK](#) festival and [Make Music Day](#) on 21 June are both going digital - have a look at their websites to see how to take part.

4 Make music with your group

- [Chorus Connection](#) has published a great blog on what to consider when running an online choir rehearsal. Our member group, Notorious choir, also has some great ideas in a blog about [their first online rehearsal](#).
- [Facebook Live](#) – we know some groups have tried this already. It is best for broadcast rather than interaction, but lots of people have had success with the choir leader broadcasting and everyone at home singing along. The Facebook live page has its own 'how to' and 'top tips' guide.
- [Zoom](#) seems to be the online meeting provider of choice for music leaders. It does allow for more interaction, but this has to be managed well (see [Chorus Connection](#) blog). The app does have a free version for up to 100 participants – and you can have as many meetings or sessions as you like – but they are limited to 40 minutes per session. There is a useful video tutorial with information how to use Zoom in '[Music Mode](#)' [on YouTube](#). Also, our friends at Sound and Music will be hosting a free online Zoom tutorial for composers and music makers every Friday at 12.30pm GMT. [Register online](#).
- There is also a useful tutorial on Zoom for choral conductors from the Royal Academy of Music also on YouTube, in two parts. View parts [one](#) and [two](#).
- [Google Hangouts](#) is another alternative
- Speak with your music leaders about possible online lessons for members – it could be great way to keep some funds coming in for your group and to support your freelance music professional. If your music leaders haven't taught online before, [this blog from Music Teachers Helper](#) is a good starting point.

5 Apps for online music making music, geared around everyone playing at once.

- [Jamkazam](#)

- [Jammr](#)
- [Cleanfeed](#)
- Google hangouts 'on air' in studio mode Also Sound and Music are [running zoom sessions](#) on using zoom for composers and music educators
- Guidance from ArtsProfessional on running [online events](#)

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

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

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

- [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](#)

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/>