

Read on for: Rehearsal details; Messiah; Verdi Requiem; Mahler 8; Message from our President; Subscriptions; Sad news; Sue Spence; Support available; Message from Georgina; Register for Messiah via Self Isolation Choir; Musical resources for difficult times (including organ recital today by Jonathan Scott); Take care; Diary dates inc dates next season; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Occasional update Monday 30 March 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal

As you know, all rehearsals have been cancelled and our next three concerts postponed. We will hopefully meet again on Tuesday 1 September 2020. Scroll down for musical activities that might interest you in the meantime.

Messiah

As you know, the Messiah concert has had to be postponed. It will probably take quite a while to organise a date for the re-scheduled concert, so there's not likely to be any news for a while. However, both French and German choirs are keen to go ahead with a re-scheduled event, despite the problems caused by the need to postpone the 18 April event. We received the following message from the Bochum choir:

'We were all looking forward to the trip to England, the concert and the time with our friends in Sheffield. But for now, other, more urgent things are in the focus. We very much hope that the Messiah concert can take place when the situation has calmed down and we would be happy to be on stage with you then. Please send our best wishes to all the members of your choir. We are thinking of you. Kind regards'

Members who bought tickets bought at rehearsal will be able to 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 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.

Verdi Requiem

The concert has been re-scheduled to Thursday 10 September 2020, so please hang on to your scores – and do use the online resources to stop the work getting rusty so we are ready to go in September! Chairman Paul Henstridge's rehearsal notes, together with recordings and rehearsal tracks, are all on the Chorus website at: [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#). Maggie is going to provide advice about keeping our voices in good shape; this will be posted on the website as well as in a future update.

We will probably rehearse on Tuesday 1 September as normal, then Saturday 5 September and Monday 7 September (possibly the compulsory conductor's piano rehearsal), but not on Tuesday 8 September.

Ticket sales on Monday 30 March were 683 but we don't know how many of these will sign up for the re-scheduled concert once it is advertised.

Mahler 8

Also postponed. Re-schedule date yet to be arranged, but may be May or June 2021.

Message from President Rachel Copley

Rachel emailed the following message on hearing about all our cancellations:

“I’m so sorry to receive this news, but it is certainly not unexpected. I would like to thank, at this stage, Darius and all officers and committee members for everything that they have done, and then undone, to keep the chorus and its members safe. It is a huge disappointment for us all, and there will be massive gaps in our musical lives for the foreseeable future, but thank goodness for the technological age, and the access to friends and family via all our ‘gadgets’, and also to still be able to listen to the music that we love, so important for our health and well-being in every way. The spirit that abounds within the Sheffield Phil will continue during this very testing time, and we will be ‘raising roofs’ again before we know it! With every good wish for good health, Rachel.’

Message 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.

Sue Spence

A small private funeral was held for Sue Spence on Wednesday 25th March. John will probably arrange a memorial ceremony once the Covid-19 threat has subsided – likely to be in September. This will broadly follow the pattern of the already drafted Funeral Ceremony, but

amended accordingly, and perhaps in a lighter mode. We will still sing the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei from Faure's *Requiem*, as these were Sue's favourites, so please keep hold of your scores. Our thoughts and good wishes are with John at this sad and difficult time.

Sad news



We are very sad to report that bass David Mortimer recently died at home following a short illness. His daughters have sent very nice messages to the Chorus, which clearly meant a great deal to David, who was a member for over 40 years. *'It was such a special, huge part of his life..... he was so committed to it and to his fellow members.... just wanted to thank the Chorus for all the joy and friendship it gave to my father over many years.'* David expressed a hope that maybe some of the choir might be able to sing at his funeral, but the present Covid-19 crisis means this will be a private affair on 31st March 2020. However, we have told his family we will sing at a future memorial service, and that we are thinking of them at this sad time.

Support available

Louise Dawson, Julian Sullivan and Allan Lacey have very kindly agreed to talk to any member feeling worried, isolated or lonely during this difficult time when many of us are self-isolating as much as possible for a protracted period. 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 Thank you to all three.

Message 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"*

Self Isolation Choir invites you to sing Messiah from home

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 on 30th March <https://www.theseisolationchoir.com/>

Resources to help music makers through this difficult time

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 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.

4 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](#)

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

- [Discord](#)

- [Whereby](#)

6 Watch music

- 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)

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.

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](#)

Jonathan Scott, who played harmonium at our 'Petite Messe Solonnelle' concert in the ballroom in June 2018, is giving an online organ recital live from the Bridgewater Hall at 1pm on Monday 30 March 2020. Tune in at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm3x-74Ybhg&feature=youtu.be>

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 Covid 19 tests in an attempt to get into people's homes.

On a lighter note: [Beethoven 5 video](#) (well worth watching)

Diary dates including compulsory rehearsals and confirmed dates for next season

Dates for next season are Thursday 10 September 2020 (re-scheduled Verdi *Requiem*), 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 12 or 19 June 2021 (self funded concert).

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](#).

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 *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

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/>