

Dates for next season have been confirmed – see below

Read on for: Rehearsal details; Rehearsal notes, tracks and recordings; Sue Spence's funeral; Ticket sales PLEASE SELL TICKETS! German/French visit; **Diary dates inc compulsory rehearsals and confirmed dates next season**; Reminders - need names NOT singing *Messiah*, clarification re Mahler 8 Saturday rehearsals, request by Darius to remove parts of Mahler 8 scores, invitation to sing Mahler 2; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Weekly update Sunday 15 March 2020 (also available at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 17 March 2020, when we will be rehearsing the Mahler in the first half and the Verdi after the break. Please note that all rehearsals until further notice will go on to 21.15.

Rehearsal tracks and notes

Chairman Paul Henstridge's rehearsal 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](#).

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.

Sue Spence funeral

Thank you to the 13 sopranos, 8 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 25th March at 1:00 pm. Two of the sopranos have very kindly volunteered to sing alto if necessary and 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 13 sopranos, 11 altos, 8 tenors and 10 basses in total.

We will sing the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei from Faure's *Requiem*. Those without scores should have collected them last week but if not please take a copy on Tuesday.

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.

Your help needed to improve ticket sales!

Ticket sales so far for *Messiah* = about 150 (about 10 cathedral shop + 61 online + 81 rehearsal).

Tickets will be on sale on Tuesday. Anne is away, so Russel Eagling will be selling the tickets; correct change if possible please, or cheques made payable to Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. Tickets also available at the cathedral shop. All tickets are unallocated, so it will be first come first served on the night. 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.

We need to sell ALL the available tickets, ie 350, so have a fair way to go - PLEASE DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO SELL TICKETS FOR THIS CONCERT!

Ticket sales (by Mon 9 Mar) for the Verdi *Requiem* = 674.

Choral concerts usually get around 400 people turning up on the night, so 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!

Messiah – update re arrangements for the French and German visit

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

Wed 15th April. German visitors arrive.

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

Fri 17th 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 18th 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 19th 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. . Please publicise this concert as widely as possible, using the e-flyer at [Buxton concert flyer](#). It would be great if you could also support by attending the concert.

Mon 20th April. French visitors visit York, concert given by them in Malton in the evening. Please publicise this as widely as possible, using the e-flyer at [Malton concert flyer](#). It would be great if you could also support by attending the concert.

Tue 21 April. French visitors fly home.

Diary dates including compulsory rehearsals and confirmed dates for next season

Friday 17 April 19.00 to 21.15 – compulsory choir rehearsal at KES (possibly followed by visit to local pub for Chorus and visitors)

Saturday 18 April 2020 19.00 – *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band in Sheffield cathedral. Seating rehearsal 13.00, tutti rehearsal 14.00.

Friday 1 May 2020 – compulsory piano rehearsal for Verdi *Requiem* with conductor Gianluca Marcianó in the Victoria Hall.

Saturday 2 May 2020 – compulsory tutti rehearsal City Hall from 14.00 to 17.00 (concert at 19.00)

Saturday 6 June 2020 - compulsory choir rehearsals for Mahler 8 in Manchester, from 10.30 to 16.00 (counts for the MAR).

Saturday 13 June 2020 - compulsory choir rehearsals for Mahler 8 in Manchester from 14.00 to 18.00 (doesn't count for the MAR).

Please note that 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%.

Saturday 20 June 2020 - tutti rehearsal for Mahler 8 from 13.30 to 16.30 at Bridgewater Hall (concert at 7.30pm, no interval)

Dates for next season are Friday 6 November 2020, Saturday 12 December 2020, Sunday 24 January 2021, Sunday 7 March 2021, 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](#).

Urgent 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 as soon as you can. Grateful thanks.

Reminder - 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'

Reminder – Darius wants us to split the bound 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.

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 2nd 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

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/>