

Instructions for our first on-line rehearsal on Tuesday 30 June at 7pm are attached

Read on for: First on-line rehearsal; Call for volunteers; Letter to Guardian; Thanks; Maggie's exercises and concerts; *Messiah* online; Musical resources (updated); Diary dates, Reminders – *Messiah* refunds, subscriptions, Amazon, support; Take care; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Update Friday 19 June 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

First online rehearsal Tuesday 30 June at 7pm (attachment)

As promised, we have been planning how our music making together can continue, and our first virtual rehearsal together will take place on Tues 30 June, at 7pm, to prepare us for rehearsing that way in September. While it isn't the same as gathering to sing in person, those of us who have tried it believe it is a lot better than nothing. From September these rehearsals won't be compulsory but we will expect people to attend unless they really feel it's not for them.

For the trial run we will use *Messiah*, and we are going to use Zoom, which even the self-declared Luddites and technophobes on the committee have found themselves able to use it with relative ease, on PCs, laptops and iPads. Our Membership Officer Marianne Grayson will host the meeting, and has created a set of instructions for us all – attached.

Call for volunteers

We are having a trial run for the trial run on Tuesday 23 June at 7pm, and could do with a few more volunteers. This session will aim to identify and iron out any issues by running a rehearsal just as intended the following Tuesday evening. Volunteers please email Marianne at MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org so she can send you the link for next Tuesday evening. Many thanks!

Letter to Guardian re the future of choral music

Darius is part of a group of choral conductors who meet regularly (via Zoom of course) to discuss choral music in these challenging circumstances. Along with the likes of John Rutter, Simon Halsey and David Hill, he co-signed a letter which appeared in the Guardian this week. You can read all about it in the [About Us / News section of the Chorus website](#)

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for completing the survey about whether or not you have a score for the Rachmaninov *Vespers*.

Maggie's Vocal Exercises

The five sets of vocal exercises from Maggie, digitised by Rachel, are on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing Your Voice](#).

Maggie's 'concerts'

June 20 - Rutter *Feel the Spirit*; June 27 - Elgar *Dream of Gerontius*; July 4 - Mahler *Symphony No. 8*. Do feel free to sing along to a recording of the relevant work – whether in full concert dress or not!

***Messiah* from the self isolation choir**

Around 3,500 people joined 7 weeks of on-line rehearsals for the self isolation choir's *Messiah*, and over 6,000 videos were edited together for a performance on 31 May. 2nd soprano Christine Waldron forms part of the chorus, and reports "*It's been one of the really positive things for me and to think that no one involved with this project has met in the flesh makes it all the more*

remarkable. It is possible to rehearse & enthuse a choir onlineit provided everyone with a much missed sense of participating in a large choral project and to have fun making music together.' New projects are a Summer School and Elijah at Home. You can watch the *Messiah* performance and find out about the Summer School and Elijah at Home on the [self isolation choir website](#)

Musical resources

A From Making Music

1. Keep enjoying music (updated – new items are added at the top)

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.

- Composer Eric Whitaker has been experimenting with virtual choirs for some years. Here his composition '[Cloudburst](#)' on You Tube for a taste of what's been done, and see his [website for further details](#).
- Royal Opera ballet and opera performances are free during lockdown, [see ROH website](#)
- [Sheffield Youth Orchestra's short video of We'll Meet Again](#) recorded by each child in her/his own home. Arranged, conducted & produced by George Morton
- [Messiah on self isolation choir website](#)
- Manchester Camerata are running regular [Mini Music Makers sessions for children](#), which are fun and interactive.
- [London Philharmonic Orchestra online](#) – performances, Question and Answer sessions and more.
- See [Camden Choir's on-line performance of True Colours](#) (and other delights)
- Second soprano Rachel Mallaband is one of the Stay at Home Choir singers backing the King's Singers in [this very beautiful recording](#) – do have a listen. You can join the next collaboration at [Stay at Home Choir](#)
- [Music in the Round's digital Chamber music festival](#) – all performances available to view until 31 May 2020.
- [We'll Meet Again from Sheffield Youth Orchestra](#)
- [Wild Wild West from the Mozart Group](#)
- [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 on-line sessions for primary children www.schoolssingingprogramme.org.uk
- St John's Passion from Isolation featuring Daniel Norman (Evangelist), Roderick Williams (Jesus), Catherine Wyn-Rogers, James Gilchrist, Kings Singers, The Sixteen and others. The [digital programme](#) lists participants, different episodes, chorale music.
- Another isolation concert, this time [Tenebrae on BBC i-player](#) (you will need to sign in).
- Classical Sheffield's administrator, Kate Shipway's 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 & piano recital with brother Tom](#) at home in Manchester:
- [Jonathan Scott's super online organ recital from the Bridgewater Hall](#)
- [Classic FM's list of choirs and orchestras that have performed at-home concerts](#)
- Choraline's Self Isolation Choir <https://www.theseisolationchoir.com/>

- On a lighter note: [Beethoven 5 video](#) (well worth watching)
- [Stay At Home Choir's Vivaldi Gloria](#)
- [Zurich Opera House's Verdi Requiem](#)
- [Berlin Philharmonika's digital concerts free for 30 days following use of voucher](#)
- Music section of [Chatter Pack article](#) lists streaming of live 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)

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 Choroline](#)
- [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 – likely to 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), Sat 19 June 2021 (Faure Requiem – self funded but with some support from Halle Concert Society and SIV).

Yet to be confirmed: May 2021 self funded concert in the cathedral, programme to be arranged but will include Rachmaninov's Vespers. March 2022 (re-scheduled Mahler 2 for Classical Sheffield festival, now moved to 2022), April 2022 (eg Saturday 23 April or thereabouts) re-scheduled *Messiah* concert .

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

Members who bought *Messiah* tickets at rehearsal can get a re-fund via Finance Officer Graham Dawson (GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org). Please state how many tickets you purchased at each price, and supply 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. Those who bought on-line will be refunded by WeGotTickets.

Reminder - Subscriptions

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.

Reminder - Amazon

Members may be making some purchases from Amazon now that we can't get to the same range of shops. If you do, please consider using the links on various pages of the Chorus website to the [SPC Amazon Smile page](#). Any purchases made from here will result in the Chorus getting a small donation (0.05% of the cost of eligible purchases) from Amazon.

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.

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/>