

Read on for: On-line rehearsals; Rehearsal recordings; On-line vocal exercises; Please return Verdi scores; On-line singing lessons; SPC Facebook pages; Sterndale recording; BBC Proms; Support Sheffield Music Academy; Musical resources (updated); Diary dates, Reminders – Buy Vespers score, *Messiah* refunds, subscriptions, Amazon, support; Take care; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Update Sunday 19 July 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Online rehearsals

Thank you (and well done!) to everyone who attended our second on-line rehearsal on Tuesday – just over 100 members in total. Grateful thanks again to Marianne for hosting, to Darius for leading, and to Rachel and Maggie for their contributions. The vast majority of folk managed to re-name themselves; this makes Marianne's record-keeping much easier so many thanks for that. We did have one member who joined in by phone, so if you don't have the necessary devices, or your internet connection is poor and you'd like to join us next week, contact Marianne at MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org for further information.

Our next on-line rehearsal will be on Tuesday 28 July at 7pm; we'll be doing *Messiah* and Rachmaninov again, and the link and music will be sent round next week. In the meantime, bass John Morgan recommends the following recording of the Rachmaninov for a number of reasons but mostly for the rich Russian voices. The recording was made in 2016 by the USSR Ministry of Culture Choir under Valery Polyansky; it's available on Spotify. Thanks John!

Recording of the last rehearsal

First of all a huge THANK YOU to alto Kath Eadon, who edited last week's rehearsal in her spare time – and a great job she has done. Many thanks Kath!

The recording has been split into five and placed on YouTube as five unlisted uploads, which means they can't be found via an on-line search, but only via the links below and on the Member's Area of the Chorus website at [Members Area/Rehearsals/Preparing the Music](#). So do feel free to use the recording to go over the work we did last Tuesday – or to catch up if you were absent last week. Please don't share the recordings via any kind of public forum - eg Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc. There are no copyright issues if the Chorus uses the recordings but if shared more widely we will have to pay fees (and might get into some trouble).

- [Messiah Since By Man 14 July 2020](#)
- [Worthy is the Lamb 14 July 2020](#)
- [Vespers 1 14 July 2020](#)
- [Vespers 3 14 July 2020](#)

On-line vocal exercises in August

Maggie has some concerns about our vocal health, given the long period since last we sang live. Many leading choral conductors are recommending Zoom rehearsals and/or vocal sessions throughout the summer, and don't think it's a good idea to end up having a break from March to perhaps after Christmas without singing. We've decided to have two sessions in August, in order to ensure we are vocally fit enough to "hit the ground running" when we start in September. The sessions will be on Tuesday 11 and Tuesday 25 August, from 7pm for half an hour. Maggie will lead the sessions and soprano Georgina Hulse (our Education and Outreach Officer) will host. Thanks are due to both for providing us with this valuable facility. The links will be sent nearer the time. In the meantime, keep doing Maggie's Vocal Exercises, which are on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing Your Voice](#).

Please return Verdi Requiem scores BY THE END OF JULY

The Verdi Requiem scores are to be returned to the hirers by August, so please return your score BY THE END OF JULY. Either post it to Librarian Els Pearse at 49 Westbourne Road S10 2QT, telephone 0114 268 3027, or drop it off at her home (wear gloves to remove the lid of the box in the porch). Any difficulties - please contact Els who will try to arrange something else.

Singing lessons from English Touring Opera

Alto Nerissa Kisdon recommends English Touring Opera's on-line singing lessons – which Anne Adams has also sampled and greatly enjoyed. ETO performed Messiah and the St John Passion in Firth Hall, joined by local singers including some of our members. They have paid their contracted artists in full during the lockdown; in return these singers are offering the lessons. They are free (donations welcome, of course) and easy to access. Nerissa says “I found them fun, informative and helpful, especially in boosting one's impetus to sing...”

[Link to ETO's adult singing lessons](#)

[Link to ETO's singing lessons for children](#)

SPC's two Facebook pages

[Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus Members Group](#) This is now a private group, for Chorus members and friends to share messages, questions and chat about performances, rehearsals, arrangements, links to other sites etc.

[Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus](#) This is the official SPC page. Importantly, it's open to anyone, ie, it's a public site. We use this to publicise concerts and for marketing generally. It's not really the place for members to chat among themselves, or to ask questions about rehearsals, music etc – please use the members page for that. For a very small fee (just a few pounds) we get Facebook to share event notifications to local classical music-lovers, so it's a super way to reach thousands of potential audience members – and a key way of attracting younger people to our concerts. However, it means that any comments left on the site can be seen by thousands of people. So glowing, enthusiastic comments are the order of the day here!

Sterndale Singers

[Sterndale Singers recently recorded Monteverdi's *Cantate Domino*](#) from their own homes, directed by Robert Webb. Look out for Chair Paul Henstridge among the tenors!

BBC Proms

The BBC has scheduled a plethora of previous Prom concerts on both TV and Radio, including Mahler's 8th Symphony (of the Thousand) conducted by Simon Rattle on 9th August. [Link to the BBC Prom schedule](#)

Support Sheffield Music Academy

Sheffield Music Academy is a small charity with ambitious aspirations to fund and support more than 120 exceptional and passionate musicians in South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, East Ridings and beyond. Donations allow them to offer financial support to students that could not attend the Academy otherwise, and provide them with instruments. [Donate to the Academy](#)

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.

- [Sheffield Music Academy's 26-hour Music Marathon, starts 10am on 25th July](#)
- Sheffield's young musicians have been recording from their gardens during the lock down. [See a compilation of their efforts here](#). [Listen to their virtual performance of "Wake Me Up"](#).
- [24 hour soundtrack from Concerteenies](#) – for young children and their families.
- [Sterndale Singers recently recorded Monteverdi's *Cantate Domino*](#) from their own homes, directed by Robert Webb. Look out for Chair Paul Henstridge among the tenors!
- Recording of Darius playing the final two movements of the Rachmaninov Suite for Two Pianos (playing both parts): [Listen to the Tarantelle](#) and [Listen to the Romance](#) or access both on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Information](#)
- New brass arrangement of the soprano aria '*How Beautiful Are the Feet*' from Handel's *Messiah*, one of three that Darius has put together during the lock-down, recorded by soprano Catrin Pryce-Jones with Black Dyke Band, all performing from their own homes. [Listen to How Beautiful Are the Feet](#)
- [Abbeydale Singers lock-down recording of Will Todd's 'Like a Rainbow Shining'](#)
- New University of Sheffield podcasts feature Radio 3's Tom McKinney discussing music-colour synaesthesia, expressiveness in music and music's relationship to space. [Listen to the podcasts here](#).
- The BBC has scheduled a plethora of concerts on both TV and Radio, including Mahler 8 conducted by Simon Rattle on 8th August. [Link to the BBC Prom schedule](#)
- Dark Sky Voices – a superb group of singers that includes soprano Ann Garbett's daughter Rachel. Hear their [beautiful version of Amazing Grace](#) or [I Wish I Knew How it Feels to Be Free](#).
- The Stay at Home Choir's gorgeous virtual performance of [O Radiant Dawn](#) from The Strathclyde Motets by James MacMillan
- [Jonathan Scott's free on-line organ recitals](#) – next one (the eighth) is on 21 July but they are all available to listen to on his website
- [Make Music Day 2020 official broadcast](#)
- [Making Music Virtual concerts](#) – by Making Music member groups from across the UK
- Opera North's singing workshops [From Couch to Chorus](#)
- [Sheffield Music Academy students' first mid-week concert](#)
- [Jonathan Scott playing Elgar's *Nimrod*](#) on the largest pipe organ in Asia
- 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 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 – 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 – buy Rachmaninov Vespers

The version of the Rachmaninov Vespers that we will use is ALL NIGHT VIGIL Opus 37 by Musica Russica, ISBN 0-9629460-6-0 (it has a pink cover). Members might want to order a copy for themselves, since we won't be able to distribute any copies that Els might have otherwise ordered on our behalf. It costs just over £31 from [Ackerman Music](#) or [Presto Music](#) (very rapid turn-around apparently) or a little bit less [from Forewoods Forescore](#) or you might be able to get a good second-hand copy from eBay or Amazon (use the [SPC Amazon Smile page](#) link to make a bit of money for the Chorus).

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 - 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/>