

Please complete the on-line survey (see below)

Read on for: Rehearsals start again Tue 8 Sep 2020; Live rehearsals – help please; Plans for coming season; On-line survey; On-line vocal session thanks; Diary dates, Reminders – buy Vespers score, Maggie’s concerts; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Update Monday 01 September 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Rehearsals start again on Tuesday 8th September

Our 2020-21 season starts again next Tuesday 8 September at 7pm, when we will start regular rehearsals on-line via Zoom. We will continue to rehearse the Rachmaninov so will need everyone to have a copy of the pink score published by Musica Russica – and we are very grateful that many of you purchased this during the summer. However, the impact of Covid-19 on people’s employment status may have prevented some members from being able to buy a copy, so we are going to use Chorus funds to purchase a number of scores (see item about the survey below). We are told that scores will be safe to collect and distribute as long as they are left untouched for a few days at each stage. Hopefully we will be able to recoup the cost by hiring them out in the future (see item about Rachel Fright below).

In the meantime do make use of the recordings of our two on-line rehearsals on the Member’s Area of the Chorus website at [Members Area/Rehearsals/Preparing the Music](#) – especially if you missed the rehearsals. Please remember not to share the recordings via any kind of public forum, to ensure we stay within copyright law.

- [Messiah Surely And with his stripes 28 July 2020](#)
- [Messiah All we like sheep 28 July 2020](#)
- [Rachmaninov Vespers No 5 28 July 2020](#)
- [Rachmaninov Vespers No 1 Recap 28 July 2020](#)

Live rehearsals – can anyone help find a venue?

As announced in the previous update, the committee is working with our three professionals to plan how we can re-commence live rehearsals, which are likely to start carefully in October with small groups in combination with a revised on-line format. Darius and Rachel are working on the technical details as we speak, so watch this space for further details. King Edwards is not available so we are searching for a suitable alternative venue. This is proving to be very difficult, because schools and churches are understandably cautious about hiring out their facilities, and large venues like the City Hall tend to have been mothballed.

If any member knows of a venue that is available for hire, which may have a suitable acoustic and that could accommodate at least 30 of us, but better still 60 of us, while maintaining 2m social distancing, please contact Paul Henstridge at chairman@sheffieldphil.org.

Plans for the 2020-21 season

Darius is keen for us to perform something this coming term, despite the restrictions, so we are planning to record his new arrangement of *Resonet in Laudibus* with Black Dyke Band, all from our own homes of course. The recording will be released on a set date as a short Christmas carol concert, and Black Dyke are very keen to join us in this venture, which is great. Darius and Rachel will do the editing, and they are working out how to organise the recordings. A number of members have been involved in recording from their own homes during the summer, using just their PCs, tablets or mobile phones, and reassure us that it isn’t too onerous a task – not nearly as difficult as the editing Darius and Rachel will need to do!

St Luke's have asked if we have a recording of Rutter's Gaelic Blessing, which we often sing at their Christmas carol service, and which they'd like to use for a virtual carol service they are planning to broadcast in December. We've decided to add that to our virtual carol concert so we can share it with St Luke's. We therefore need to know who has a copy – see item about the survey below.

We are planning to ask our new Patron Petroc Trelawny to present the virtual Christmas carol concert, and to ask our long-standing Patron Sam West if he will contribute a reading. If successful, we should be able to generate a fair bit of publicity around our virtual carol concert.

We are hoping to perform the Rachmaninov *Vespers* in the cathedral on Saturday 15th May 2021. This will be a self-funded concert which Margaret Staniforth's husband Kim is very generously sponsoring, so we will hold the concert in memory of 2nd soprano Margaret, who sadly died last year.

We don't yet know whether the June concert (Faure *Requiem*) in the City Hall will go ahead, but at the moment the plans are that it will do so.

Please complete the on-line survey

We need to find out how everyone feels about re-commencing live rehearsals, so we are asking you to complete a survey to let us know. The survey also asks about Rachmaninov and Rutter scores, and whether you would like to be involved in the small group rehearsals starting in October. **Please can you complete it as soon as you can, but by Tuesday 8 September at the latest.**

The survey can be found at the following link:

<https://administrator903478.typeform.com/to/lop471Oq>

It's also in the Members Area of our website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)

On-line vocal exercise session on Tuesday 25 August

Thanks to Maggie for another smashing session which was attended by over 50 members of the Chorus. Grateful thanks to Maggie for the work she has put in to prepare the two valuable sessions, and to Georgina for hosting them both.

Rachel and the SPC music library

In return for her fees which we've continued to pay, our accompanist Rachel Fright offered to digitally catalogue our library of vocal scores so that in the future we can start hiring them out. She has already come across from Manchester a couple of times and has started this work, which will be very useful; thank you Rachel.

Diary dates

Dates for 2020-21 – almost certain to be postponed or cancelled: Friday 6 November 2020 (After Hours concert); Saturday 12 December 2020 (Christmas carol concerts 2pm and 5.30pm) Sunday 24 January 2021 (SICS concert)

Dates for 2021 yet to be confirmed: Sat 15 May 2021 self funded concert in the cathedral (Rachmaninov's *Vespers*); Sat 19 June 2021 (Faure *Requiem* – self funded but with some support from Halle Concert Society and SIV).

Dates for 2021-22: March 2022 (re-scheduled Mahler 2 for Classical Sheffield festival, itself now moved to 2022), Saturday 23 April 2022 (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 EIs 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 - Maggie's Sing-along Concerts

Maggie invites us to join her to sing a selection of much loved choral classics, in our own homes, accompanied by our own recordings. There's a document on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#); but the season is listed below; all start at 7.30pm.

- Sept 12 – Bach - B Minor Mass
- Sept 26th – Haydn – Nelson Mass
- Oct 10th – Rossini – Stabat Mater
- Oct 24th – Dvorak – Requiem
- Nov 7th – Elgar – The Light of Life and RVW – Serenade to Music
- Nov 21 – Bach – Parts 1 and 2 – Christmas Oratorio
- Nov 28th – Bach – Parts 3 and 5 – Christmas Oratorio
- Dec 12th – Handel - Judas Maccabaeus
- Dec 19th – Handel – Part 1 – Messiah.

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.

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/>