

Read on for: **Next rehearsal**; **Vocal exercises (attached)**; **On-line singing sessions for children**; **Musical resources**; **Reminders - Diary dates, *Messiah* refunds; support, subscriptions, Georgina's lessons; Take care; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails**

Update Wednesday 29 April 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal - update

As many of you will know, it is looking increasingly likely that social distancing will be operational in some form beyond the summer. The City Hall is reviewing its programming and although decisions are yet to be made, it may well be that concerts will not re-commence until January 2021.

Darius has completed the brass arrangements for *Messiah*, and is now working on a new item for us to sing. He and Rachel are also looking into ways we might be able to rehearse via technology.

Committee members are planning to hold a virtual meeting via Zoom sometime next week to discuss the various options and how we might proceed – watch this space for further news.

Vocal exercises

Rachel and Maggie have produced the next set of exercises (attached). Thanks both! They are also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing Your Voice](#)

On-line singing sessions for children

You may remember Tom Leech, who has taken rehearsals in lieu of Darius now and again. Tom is Director of the Schools Singing Programme in the Diocese of Leeds, has set up daily virtual singing sessions as YouTube videos. Aimed at primary children the sessions are led by expert choral directors, and combine warm-ups, vocal exercises and lots of sacred and secular songs, together with plenty of music learning and RE linked to some of the music. Tom invites us to have a look at and share the resources, which have generated good reviews (eg '*your YouTube lesson was brilliant!*' '*Great session! Very well structured and heaps of fun.*' '*Really enjoyed this with my two children! 'keeps children singing and something families can do together. Well done.'*') www.schoolssingingprogramme.org.uk

Musical resources

[A From Making Music](#)

[1. Keep enjoying music \(updated\)](#)

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.

- St John's Passion from Isolation – a wonderfully moving version of Bach's magnificent work by Oxford Bach Soloists and guests, with production company Positive Note in aid of Help Musicians UK (donations invited). It is being recorded by each player and singer in their own home and released in 9 episodes, the first of which was launched on YouTube on 10 April. Featuring Daniel Norman as the Evangelist, Roderick Williams as Jesus, a range of soloists include Catherine Wyn-Rogers and James Gilchrist, with contributions from the Kings Singers and The Sixteen among others, it is well worth a listen. The [digital programme](#) has links to a list of participants and to the different episodes; there's even a chorale booklet to enable listeners to join in.
- Another isolation concert, this time [Tenebrae on BBC i-player](#) (you will need to sign in).

- Classical Sheffield's administrator, Kate Shipway, herself a choral conductor, has produced a 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'](#) The musicians, in their homes in England, kept in time via a live stream of the conductor and pianist from a church in Stockholm.
- Jonathan Scott, who played harmonium at our 'Petite Messe Solonelle' concert in June 2018, presented a harmonium and piano recital with his brother Tom at their home in Manchester: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKsCOmMi5QY&feature=youtu.be>
- Jonathan's super online organ recital from the Bridgewater Hall is still available to watch and listen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fm3x-74Ybhq&feature=youtu.be>
- Classic FM's list of choirs and orchestras that have performed at-home concerts <https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/coronavirus/self-isolating-choirs-orchestras-perform-concerts/>
- Choraline's Self Isolation Choir <https://www.theseisolationchoir.com/>
- On a lighter note: [Beethoven 5 video](#) (well worth watching)
- The Stay At Home Choir's Vivaldi Gloria <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0t2ni2QwY8&feature=youtu.be>
- Zurich Opera House's Verdi Requiem <https://www.opernhaus.ch/en/spielplan/streaming/messa-da-requiem/>
- Berlin Philharmonika's digital concerts are free for 30 days following use of the voucher available at <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/home>
- 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).
- 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

- [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)

3 Make music yourself

- Free music download from [Pennine Music](#)
- [Acapella](#) is an app that lets you create and share music with each other.
- Learn an instrument online using YouTube tutorials and online lessons (eg [Your Space Music](#)).
- [Black Dress Code](#) allows musicians to stream performances, audiences charged a fee which is passed on to performers; email info@blackdresscode.com for info.
- [Part play](#) a practice companion instrumental app 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](#)

4 Make music with your group

- [Chorus Connection](#) on running an online choir rehearsal.
- [Facebook Live](#) – ‘how to’ and ‘top tips’ guide to rehearsing online.
- [Zoom](#) has a free version for up to 100 participants for 40 minutes. Video tutorial '[Music Mode](#)' on YouTube, and every Friday at 12.30pm GMT. [Register online](#).
- [Google Hangouts](#) is another alternative.

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

- [Discord](#)
- [Whereby](#)

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 - update

Dates for 2020-21 - may yet 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), Sunday 7 March 2021 (Mahler 2 for Classical Sheffield festival), Sat 19 June 2021 (Faure Requiem – self funded but with some support from Halle Concert Society and SIV).

Yet to be confirmed: Easter 2021 (eg Saturday 10 April or thereabouts) re-scheduled Messiah concert ; May 2021 self funded concert in the cathedral, programme to be arranged but may include Rachmaninov's Vespers.

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 - Membership Subscriptions

Given that our financial year is August to July so we are now a good way through the season, and that we are continuing to pay our professionals in return for musical services, the Committee feels that we should leave the subscription process where it is. So, if you pay by standing order and are able, please continue with your payments.

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 - Messiah refunds

We are currently still investigating a re-schedule to next Easter. Members who bought tickets at rehearsal can 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 Finance Officer 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. 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.

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.

Reminder – singing lessons from Georgina Hulse

Georgina Hulse, our Education and Outreach Officer, is offering online singing lessons at a reduced rate. If you are interested contact her on 07932 999935 or gs_hulse@hotmail.com

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 (but bogus) Covid 19 tests in an attempt to get into people's homes.

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/>