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Update Sunday 25 October 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Invitation to online rehearsal on Tuesday 27 October 2020 (attachment)

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 27 October 2020 at 7pm. The rehearsal will be partly live with Group 2, partly via Zoom; see the next item about the effect of Tier 3 restrictions. The link is provided below.

<https://zoom.us/j/91848712798?pwd=WIV2cUxNRXlqb2FEMC9MaktHNpCdz09>

Meeting ID: 918 4871 2798

Passcode: 123456

Telephone dial-up numbers: +44 208 080 6591; +44 208 080 6592; +44 330 088 5830; +44 131 460 1196; +44 203 481 5237; +44 203 481 5240; +44 203 901 7895

Instructions for using Zoom can be found in the Members Area of the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

We will rehearse Rachmaninov numbers 8 and 14, the Rutter *Gaelic Blessing* again, and a new carol – Langford's *Deck the Hall* (attached). The Rutter and the Langford are also available on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#)

Group 2 volunteers need to read the 'What to Expect' document circulated last week, as well as the associated Risk Assessment, to ensure they fully understand the Covid-19 measures they need to take at the live rehearsals. These documents can be found on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Covid-19](#). The list of volunteers in Groups 1 and 2 is also on the website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

Volunteers shouldn't arrive too early as we can't start letting you in until around 7pm, when Maggie will start the warm up for the people at home; people in the room can join in once they are seated. We will start the rehearsal at 7.15 and continue without a break until around 8.20 to 8.25, followed by the breakout session for folk at home. Unfortunately the folks actually present must NOT socialise at all and should leave immediately, without talking (to keep the viral load down as much as possible).

The live volunteers each week will be replacing the recording that those at home sing along to, and there is an expectation that they will be familiar with the music, given that we have been rehearsing it for some time now. Therefore, please can those volunteers who have not attended virtual rehearsals make sure that they go through any music with which they are not familiar, using the piano at home, YouTube recordings, rehearsal tracks, or the recordings of our rehearsals, as necessary. Many thanks.

If you find you can't attend the live rehearsals at Wesley Chapel, please inform Marianne Grayson (email at end of this update) as soon as you can, so that a substitute can be organised. Please make sure it's Marianne that you contact; emails sent in reply to this update go to Anne Adams, who has to then pass it to Marianne, introducing unnecessary delays.

Grateful thanks to Darius, Rachel and Marianne for organising the technical aspects of the live rehearsals, and to James and Paul for sorting the logistics.

Live rehearsals and Tier 3 restrictions

As you will all know, unfortunately South Yorkshire is now in tier 3. However, the advice to choirs, musicians etc is that live rehearsals can still go ahead as long as the venue is Covid-safe, and appropriate measures are taken following the completion of a thorough and comprehensive risk assessment. SPC has put in place arrangements that ensure we meet the necessary requirements, and the Wesley Chapel has taken the necessary steps to ensure it is Covid-safe.

You will also know that people are not allowed to travel from Tiers 1 or 2 into a Tier 3 area, so although travel from Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham into Sheffield is allowed, travel from outside those areas is not. However, there are exceptions, eg, for work, or for the provision of voluntary or charitable services, or for education and training purposes, as long as nobody visits anywhere else either before or afterwards. Darius, Rachel and Maggie may travel to the rehearsals anyway, since they are going to work. Legal advice states that rehearsals like ours qualify in the education and training category, since the chorus is effectively being trained by the Music Director and Voice Coach. We are therefore confident that travel to our rehearsals from outside into South Yorkshire is allowed.

Nonetheless, it is completely understandable for members to want to change their minds about attending live rehearsals as a consequence of South Yorkshire's Tier 3 status, and this is entirely acceptable. Please can anyone who decides they would rather not attend, let Marianne know (email at the end of each update) so that we can update the lists. Many thanks.

Attendance

Rachmaninov: We are aiming to record attendances as normal for the Rachmaninov concert, as this our most likely next live performance. While we all hope that we will be back to normal full rehearsals before the concert, in the meantime we will record attendance at live and Zoom rehearsals, and if you confirm to Marianne by email that you have "attended" using Kath's videos to catch-up, you can also be marked as present for the individual sessions they cover.

Christmas: For the Christmas recording, anyone who has attended at least two sessions covering the Christmas repertoire (live, Zoom or catch-up) will be able to sing.

Recording Instructions (attachment)

Darius has sent the attached list of instructions for recording at home. Please have a look at these before the rehearsal is you can; Darius plans to explain a bit more during Tuesday's rehearsal.

Recorded rehearsals

Here are the links to last week's recorded rehearsal; grateful thanks to Kath Eadon for editing.

[Rachmaninov Vespers No 1 20 October 2020](#)

[Rachmaninov Vespers No 13 20 October 2020](#)

[Rachmaninov Vespers No 15 20 October 2020](#)

[Christmas recordings 20 October 2020](#)

All rehearsal recordings are uploaded to the Member's Area of the Chorus website at [Members Area/Rehearsals](#). Please remember not to share the recordings via any kind of public forum, to ensure we stay within copyright law.

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)

December 2020 :Virtual performance of Darius' new arrangement of *Resonet in Laudibus* with Black Dyke Band, Rutter's *Gaelic Blessing* and other carols, presented by Patron Petroc Trelawny with reading from Patron Sam West, recorded from our homes,

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 - 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.

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 (see below). 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*; please don't share these. Urgent messages 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

Membership Officer Marianne Grayson MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org

Finance Officer Graham Dawson GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org

New members Officer Sally Turnbull SallyTurnbull@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/>