

Weekly update for w/c Monday 27 August 2018

Rehearsal reminders

The first rehearsal of the 2018-19 season will be on Tues 4 September 2018, when we will collect and rehearse the music we are singing for the After Hours concert on 9 November. Darius has asked us to familiarise ourselves with the music for this concert - see next item. The link Darius provided, plus links to the other works, are on the chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music.](#)

Request for us to do some preparatory work for our After Hours concert on 9 November

Message from Darius to the whole chorus:

'Our 'post-concert' ballroom concert on November 9th follows a Wagner orchestral programme with Mark Elder and the Halle - so the theme for our concert is 'beyond Wagner', featuring composers heavily influenced by Wagner and taking his musical legacy further. We're starting with three Bruckner motets which many of us already know: 'Ave Maria', 'Os Justi' and 'Christus Factus est', then following that with a beautiful short piece - Reger's 'Nachtlied'.

The final piece - and the reason for this email! - is Schoenberg's "Friede auf Erden". This isn't Schoenberg at his most modern (it's not atonal or in his 'twelve-tone' system) - it's an early work (written around the same time as "gurrelieder" for those that know it) which takes Wagner's harmonic language and pushes it as far as it will go. It's one of the most difficult unaccompanied choral pieces there is but I know you all love a challenge, and it's an amazing piece of music. The best place to have a listen is here (it's about 9 minutes) because you can follow the score as well: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCrToyZfqs8>. It will help us a lot if you've had a listen and familiarised yourself with it even slightly.

Have a great summer and see you all in September. Darius'

The YouTube link above is listed on the Chorus website along with links to all the other pieces Darius has chosen, in the usual place - [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#)

Important - music returns

Please would anyone who has not yet returned their music, whether from the French trip or from earlier last season, please take it to rehearsal on Tuesday or take it to Els Pearse at [49 Westbourne Road S10 2QT](#), home telephone 0114 268 3027.

French Tour feedback

Message from our President Rachel Copley

'Looking back on the French trip, may I add my thanks to those given By Chairman Paul in the last update, obviously to Matt and Darius, but also to Anne Adams, Graham Dawson, Helen Kirk, Paul Bedwell, and all who did so much before we went, with programme planning, sorting payments for transport, and purchasing suitable gifts for the French Choirs, and for keeping the wheels running during our exhilarating, if slightly exhausting, time in France! The memories created during the five days in France, will stay with me for a long time, from the warmth of the welcome of the French choir, to the joint concert in the Cathedral, and our 'a capella' concerts, with the wonderful reception from the audiences, all very memorable.'

A News article about the French tour was placed on the Chorus website shortly after our return - see [About us / News](#).

Chorus 1911 World Tour - Yorkshire Post article

In 1911 the choir that became the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus went on a remarkable world tour with a number of other Yorkshire choirs, covering 34,000 miles and giving 134 concerts in Canada, The United States, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and South Africa. This unique event is documented in a new book by Dr. Christopher Wiltshire, husband of Pat who until recently sang with our second sopranos. The book's publication was featured in the Yorkshire Post magazine over the summer, giving the Chorus some very welcome publicity. You can read the article on-line at <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/the-forgotten-story-of-the-yorkshire-choir-that-went-on-an-ambitious-world-tour-1-9272913>.

The book uses recently discovered letters written by young soprano May Midgley to her family back in England, and her lively personality comes across as she describes this amazing undertaking, making for a fascinating read. The book costs £6.50, and Chris has very kindly offered to donate proceeds from the sale of the book to Chorus funds, once his self-publication costs have been covered. Copies will be available for purchase at rehearsals later this season, and you can read more about it on the Chorus website at [Records and books / 1911 world tour book](#)

Escafeld Chorale seek accompanist

Escafeld Chorale are looking for a pianist-accompanist to replace George Parsons, their previous brilliant accompanist who has left Sheffield. Practice nights are Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm, financial arrangement to be negotiated. If you know of anyone suitable that is interested, ask them to contact Alison Allen-Booth, Escafeld's Secretary directly, at alisonallenbooth@googlemail.com.

Singing Opportunities – all voice parts

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus invite singers of all voices to join them to sing Tippett's Child of Our Time and Faure's Requiem (yes, both on the same evening) on Saturday 23 November in the Cathedral. Rehearsals, commencing 5 September, are on Wednesday Evenings 7-30 to 9.30 at St. Andrews Church, Hanover Way. Further information from Nigel Wright (tel) 233 0525 or (email) wrightnigel@yahoo.com

There's an opportunity to sing Verdi's Requiem on 15 Sep 2018 in Wirkworth, see the Members' Area of the Chorus website [Members' Area / For information / Singing Opportunities](#)

Classical Sheffield update

The next Classical Sheffield AGM and social event will be on Thursday 15th November from 18.00 to 19.30 in the Virgin Money Lounge. All Chorus members are welcome to attend.

Diary Dates

The coming season's dates are listed on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Diary dates](#), along with any dates we know about for the 2019-20 season. Diary dates will not normally be listed in the weekly email update, but just for once here are the dates for the coming season:

NB Elective events are shown in italics.

Fri 9 Nov 2018, 21.15 After Hours, 1 hour concert in the City Hall ballroom (SICS)

Sat 1 or Sun 2 Dec 2018, Kelham Island Christmas Market. Victorian dress

Wed 5 Dec 2018 19.15 Carols in the Millennium Gallery, 20 minutes, refreshments provided

Sun 9 Dec 2018 14.00 St Luke's Carol Service, Anglican cathedral. Rehearsal 1pm

Sat 15 Dec 2018 15.00 and 19.00 Christmas Concerts with the Black Dyke Band (SICS)

Thu 20 Dec 2018 Carol Concert at Tickhill Parish Church

7 Feb 2019 Messiah in English with Bochum Choir, as part of the Bochumer Symphoniker orchestra centenary celebrations. Rehearsals probably 5 & 6 Feb 2019. It is understood that this trip is unlikely to involve more than a small group of SPC members.

Fri 7 to Sun 9 Mar 2019, Classical Sheffield Weekend Festival; we will be taking part but the exact date is yet to be arranged. This is a self funded concert.

Sat 6 Apr 2019 19.00 Bach B Minor Mass, Royal Northern Synfonia in the City Hall (SICS)

Sun 9 Jun 2019 15.00 Wilby Holy Face with Black Dyke Band, Halifax Choral Society and Yorkshire Youth Choir plus soloists, in Sheffield City Hall. This is a self funded concert.

Replacements urgently needed for John Spence

We have all known for some time that John Spence will not stand for re-election as Membership Officer in November 2018. John's role has been split so we need two people to take over. Click on this link to access the [Membership Officer and Events Officer job descriptions](#) and John's [Thoughts on Membership Officer](#) which outlines the kinds of people he thinks might like the roles, which are

Membership Officer (maintaining the Membership records, including attendance, MAR, audition records and singing lists, and arranging re-auditions);

Rehearsal and Events Officer (organising seating and dressing rooms for self-funded concerts, marshalling the chorus on concert days, practical set-up for weekly rehearsals).

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THESE ROLES, OR SUGGESTING TO A COLLEAGUE THAT S/HE MIGHT VOLUNTEER. John is happy to chat to anyone who would like further information about what the roles entail.

Re-auditions

Please contact John Spence if you still haven't booked your re-audition, see email at the end of this update. Please note that, under the Chorus Rules, a member called for re-audition may not sing in another concert or other performance until s/he has successfully passed that re-audition.

Apologies and Half-Time Leavers

Please note that apologies for absence should be sent to our Membership Officer John Spence; contact details at the bottom of each update. If you leave a rehearsal at half-time for whatever reason you should make a note of the fact on the Apologies Sheet on the registration desk.

Chorus website

Information about concert arrangements, future dates, our official stage procedure, Darius' rehearsal schedule, re-auditions, where to get rehearsal tracks etc. can be found on the chorus website, in the Member's Area in particular. 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. The chorus user name is member and the password is dariu5; these are for chorus members only so please don't share them.

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org

Membership Officer John Spence membership@sheffieldphil.org