

Click on the link to go directly to the article you want (or scroll down if you prefer): [Invitation to our concert 'watch party' tomorrow night](#); [info about Tue 15 Dec rehearsal](#); [St Luke's carol service Sun 13 Dec](#); [Opera on Location Cinderella](#); [Tenebrae concerts](#); [Diary dates](#); [Reminders – Maggie's concerts](#); [Subscriptions now due](#); [Message from our President](#); [Darius on YouTube](#); [Organ recital](#); [Classical Sheffield letter](#); [Tell us if contact details change](#); [Websites and passwords](#); [Contact emails](#)

Weekly Update Friday 11 December 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Invitation to concert 'watch party' Saturday 12 December 7pm

Our virtual carol concert will go live on Saturday 12th December, and all members are invited to a 'watch party' on Zoom at 7pm that evening. Marianne will open a Zoom meeting using the usual rehearsal link (see next item below) at 7pm, and will then share her screen and sound while playing the concert video on YouTube, so we can all watch it together. Everyone is welcome to wear Christmas jumpers and party hats etc and to enjoy a glass of something and a mince pie while they watch and listen. Maggie, and anyone joining her for *Judas Maccabaeus*, could have a listen and perhaps start a bit later than 7.30 (see [Reminder – Maggie's concerts](#) below).

The concert will remain on YouTube once it's launched, so people will be able to watch and listen at any time – so please publicise it to your family and friends. Anne Adams will put a link to the concert on the Christmas page of the Chorus website on 12 December, so you could direct people that way if you prefer. Both links are listed below.

Thank you to everyone who subscribed on the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus YouTube channel set up by our webmaster, bass Matthew Morgan. We have reached over 150 subscribers, but unfortunately we also need the channel to be running for 30 days before we can change the address – so we are stuck with those horrid numbers for the time being. That's why you might prefer to share the link from our website with your family and friends – it will look a lot friendlier!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfrUC_PFSuH7_oGCZaDqXSg

www.sheffieldphil.org/Christmas

Invitation to rehearsal on Tuesday 15 December 2020

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 7pm. The rehearsal will be partly live, involving Group 1, and partly via Zoom, the link for which 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 some more *Messiah*, sing the rest of the carols we have recorded and some further pieces from Carols for Choirs, so please have all that music handy on Tuesday. If you're coming late to this, the music is at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#)

It's great that we can re-commence live rehearsals, which has been thoroughly checked using updates from the Making Music and Department for Culture Media and Sport websites. However, there is no pressure to attend if anyone feels uncomfortable. Unfortunately if you live in a Tier 2 area you are not allowed to travel to the rehearsal. And please don't come if you feel poorly.

Group 1 volunteers may need to check the 'What to Expect' document, as well as the associated Risk Assessment, to remind themselves of 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](#).

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.

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.

St Luke's Carol Service Sunday 13 December 2020

The carol service will be launched on Sunday 13 December, and you can listen via the [Festival of Light page on St Luke's website](#). Unfortunately, St Luke's couldn't use our recording of Rutter's Gaelic Blessing, so they are airing *I Saw Three Ships* from the *Awake Arise* CD instead.

Opera on Location Cinderella

Opera on Location are presenting Pauline Viardot's short opera *Cinderella*, with presenter Polly Ives. Free to watch but donations welcome.

<https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events/2020/cinderella-1>

Tenebrae concert series online

Tenebrae are launching a filmed concert series, Tenebrae Unlocked, to provide paid work for their freelance singers, whose livelihoods have been devastated this year. The first and second of four films are available to stream via <https://www.tenebrae-choir.com/films>. Single tickets are £7, or you can buy a ticket to all four concerts for £24, and each ticket entitles the viewer to 30 days' unlimited access. As a very beautiful preview, you can watch a YouTube clip of Bruckner's gorgeous *Os justi*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXYbEyyVXUk>.

Diary dates

December 2020: Virtual Carol Concert with Black Dyke Band, Petroc Trelawny (presenter), recorded from our own homes, launched Saturday 12 December on YouTube

- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfrUC_PFSuH7_oGCZaDqXSg
- www.sheffieldphil.org/Christmas

Dates for 2020 -21 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 yet to be confirmed: Saturday 18 December 2021 (City Hall carol concerts with Black Dyke Band), Sunday 07 March 2022 (re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 2 City Hall), Saturday 23 April 2022 (re-scheduled Handel *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band, City Hall)

Under discussion: Rutter *Gloria* with Black Dyke Band, re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 8 at Bridgewater Hall 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](#) (password details provided at the end of this and every weekly update).

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.

- Dec 12th – Handel - Judas Maccabaeus
- Dec 19th – Handel – Part 1 – Messiah.

Reminder - Subscriptions for 2020-21 (attachment)

Having agreed at the AGM to reduce the subscription fee to £66, it's now time to pay, and the subscription form is attached. **Please remember that everyone needs to complete a new form each year, even if you pay by standing order and want to maintain your payments at the previous rate.** Please send your completed form electronically if at all possible; an email return will 'count' as a signed form. Members should complete the form using their full names as recognised by HMRC, otherwise Gift Aid collection will be problematic. It really helps if you can enable Gift Aid, in which case please remember to complete the Gift Aid section on the form – though no problem if you prefer not to or can't. We will delay the issue of new membership cards until we can meet in person again.

Please note that those who pay by standing order will need to amend the details if they want to pay the reduced rate. It's easier for Graham if members pay by internet bank transfer or standing order; cash payments are obviously impossible at the moment. If you want to pay by cheque then please put your Family name and Chorus Number on the back (eg dawson806) and post your cheque to Graham Dawson, Swaithe House, Mitchell Street, Swaithe, Barnsley, S70 3QF. Cheques will be quarantined for a time before being opened and taken to the bank.

A number of members have indicated their intention to continue to pay the full subs, and we are really very grateful for the generosity of anyone who decides to do this. However, please don't worry if you prefer to pay the reduced fee – and if anyone has difficulty paying for any reason, then please contact Graham; his phone numbers and email address are at the bottom of the subscription form.

Reminder - Message from our President Rachel Copley

'Dear Friends, After the dark times of the last months, I send you all my good wishes for the coming Christmastide. May your celebrations with family and friends be precious, and pave the way, with renewed hope, for a better year to come, and one in which, hopefully, we will be reunited in person, and in song. Rachel.'

Reminder - Darius on YouTube

Watch Darius play the Toccata on "O Filii et Filiae" by Lynnwood Farnham, at Rochdale Town hall organ. (JJ Binns 1913). Farnham's only work - this amazing Toccata - will be the first piece of a new CD by Darius, recorded and produced by Jake Purches of Base2 Music www.base2music.store Check it out at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BztaX87nsew>

Reminder - Organ recital from UK cathedrals

Listen to the result of a wonderful collaboration between organists at the UK's cathedrals, all playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue to raise funds to save our cathedral choirs. Look out for Tom Leech, who has led rehearsals in lieu of Darius on occasion. [Use this link to have a listen.](#)

Reminder - Letter from the Chair of Classical Sheffield

Jo Towler, Chair of Classical Sheffield and Executive Director of music in the Round, has sent a letter to Classical Sheffield members. Read it on the Chorus website at [Members Area / For information](#)

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 *darius5*; 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**.

Contact emails

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/>