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Update Sunday 06 December 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Invitation to rehearsal on Tuesday 08 December 2020

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 08 December 2020 at 7pm. The rehearsal will be partly live, involving Group 2, and partly via Zoom, the link for which is provided below.

<https://zoom.us/j/91848712798?pwd=WIV2cUxNRXIqb2FEMC9MaktHNpCdz09>

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](#).

It is 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.

Group 2 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.

We will rehearse some more *Messiah* and sing the carols we have recorded and 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](#)

Chorus YouTube channel – please please subscribe!

Thank you to the 55 of you who have clicked ‘subscribe’ on the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus YouTube channel set up by our webmaster, bass Matthew Morgan. However, we need 101 subscribers in order to change the URL (address of the channel), so please, if you haven’t already, click on the link below and just **click the subscribe button – there’s nothing to sign up to**. There’s just a test video there at the moment, but our virtual carol concert will be uploaded there

on Saturday 12th December, and it would be great if everyone could publicise it – and even better if the address was something memorable that contained our name rather than that horrible string of letters! So please click on the link below, and click *subscribe*. Many thanks.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfrUC_PFSuH7_oGCZaDgXSq

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.'

Message from Georgina Hulse

'Thank you to everyone who has sent in photos for the virtual concert. It has been so lovely to get a glimpse of your Christmas celebrations. I haven't been able to use all of the photos so please don't be offended if yours hasn't been included. Best wishes, Georgina'

Recorded rehearsals

Here are the links to last week's recorded rehearsal; grateful thanks as always to Kath Eadon for editing. Remember to tell Membership Officer Marianne Grayson if you miss a rehearsal and use the recordings to attend after the event, so she can credit your attendance on the register.

- [Messiah And the Glory / For unto us 1 December 2020](#)
- [The Holly and the Ivy arr J Gardner 1 December 2020](#)

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

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.

St Luke's Carol Service

As you know, we recorded Rutter's *Gaelic Blessing* at the request of St Luke's, who asked for it as a contribution to their carol service, in which we always sing and which will be on-line this year. Unfortunately St Luke's thought we were sending a Zoom recording and find themselves unable to use our audio recording. They have sent us a very nice apology, and report that they are using a track from the *Awake Arise* CD that we had thankfully already sent.

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.](#)

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 (attached). It is also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / For information](#)

Diary dates

December 2020 : Virtual Carol Concert with Black Dyke Band, Petroc Trelawny (presenter), recorded from our own homes. Running order: *Resonet in Laudibus* arr. D Battiwalla (Black Dyke Band, Darius Battiwalla organ); *Suo Gan* (Susan Voss violin, Eira Lynn Jones harp; Darius Battiwalla organ); *Deck the Hall* arr. Langford (a cappella); *Gaelic Blessing* John Rutter (Rachel Fright piano); *Holly and Ivy* (Rachel Fright piano); *Hark the Herald* (Black Dyke Band, Darius Battiwalla organ)

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), 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](#) (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 - 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 - Harry L'Estrange

Members may remember meeting Joanna and Alexander L'Estrange's young sons during rehearsals for the jazz bicycle concert we did in York Minster for the Tour de Yorkshire some years ago. Well, Harry, now aged 12, is in the Choir of St John's Cambridge, and his carol, *O Virgo Virginum*, was sung by the choir at the Epiphany service last January; [you can listen to it here \(scroll down for Harry's carol.\)](#).

Reminder - Carols in the Kitchen

An exclusive premiere of a new choral work by Eric Whitacre will be aired in a free virtual carol concert, '*Carols in the Kitchen*', on Sunday 13th December at 6pm. Members are invited to join a Live Q&A with Eric hosted by Classic FM's Alexander Armstrong at 5.15pm just before the concert. '*Carols in the Kitchen*' will also feature performances from Ellie Laugharne, Roderick Williams and Lulu, readings from Fiona Bruce, James Norton, Sue Perkins, Stanley Tucci and Dominic West, and of course some of your favourite congregational carols to sing along with. You can [sign up for free here](#).

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/>