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**Weekly Update Sunday 20 December 2020 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

## **Christmas greetings**

Thanks to everyone for staying cheerful in spite of all the trials and tribulations, and for tackling new challenges in such a positive way. Thanks especially to our three professionals, Darius, Rachel and Maggie for their work to keep us going and for helping us to move outside our comfort zones. Thanks Darius and Rachel for the superb virtual concert, and Georgina for fabulous visuals; it was a smashing experience. Thanks to Marianne for hosting online rehearsals, Paul and James for arranging live rehearsals, Kath for editing the recorded rehearsals, and all the committee for virtual meetings galore. Let's hope we can enjoy a peaceful, safe and healthy Christmas and that things improve so that we can come together to sing as a whole group sometime next year.

## **Next rehearsal**

We will resume combined live / online rehearsals either at home or at Wesley Hall Crookes (Group 2) on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 7pm. The link will be the same as used previously, 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](#).

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

## **Virtual carol concert**

At the time of writing our virtual carol concert had been viewed over 2,000 times and has generated lots of positive feedback, some of which is listed below. You can reach the concert via the link on the Chorus website at [www.sheffieldphil.org/Christmas](http://www.sheffieldphil.org/Christmas)

Petroc Trelawney (in response to thank you email from our Chair): *'Thanks for this - and thanks for asking me - I was thrilled to take part. Let's hope normality will return in 2021. This year so sad for those who love choral singing. Warm wishes for Christmas when we get there, Best Petroc'*

Eira Lynn (harpist) *'Congratulations on a wonderful virtual Christmas Concert. Loved recording one of my favourite Welsh tunes, Suo Gan.'* and *'Really moving to listen to this concert online, especially seeing all the festive photos. Congratulations to everyone. Suo Gan is one of my favourite Welsh songs, and as a Welsh speaker, the pronunciations were great!'*

Sheffield Bach Choir: *'Listened in and it sounded fabulous! Quite moving to see all those photos of your family Christmas activities in more normal times. Very much admire your new-found recording skills - well done one and all! Best wishes from us all at the Sheffield Bach Choir'*

## **Message from Chair Paul Henstridge**

*'Thank you to all those who made the Virtual Christmas Concert possible. It involved so much work and effort from so many, particularly Darius and Rachel, and Georgina for the visuals. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all involved on behalf of the Chorus and also to thank all those of us who contributed to the wonderful sound! I've sent a message to Petroc thanking him for his invaluable and generous contribution. Best wishes, Paul'*

## **Chorus help youth charity Roundabout**

A couple of months ago the choir was asked to help Roundabout, a very worthy charity that helps young people who become homeless. The organisers were asking local choirs to contribute to their virtual carol concert. We knew we didn't have time to record anything for their virtual concert because we would be busy recording our own, but offered to let them use tracks from our Christmas CD; Black Dyke Band were very pleased to agree. [Read more on the charity's website](#); use the YouTube link on that page to watch the concert or [watch directly here](#).

Emily Bush from the charity sent this message to the contributors: *'I would like to say a very big thank you for all of your efforts in creating videos or sending music through to us for Roundabout's first ever Virtual Christmas Concert. We have been overwhelmed with incredible feedback about how lovely all of your performances were and that you have made everyone feel very festive! It isn't too late for anyone who missed the concert, they can watch it on JustGiving: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RoundaboutsChristmasConcert>*

*We really do appreciate all of your dedication in helping to raise funds this Christmas to help the young homeless people we are working with. We have currently raised £1,690 plus gift aid which is truly brilliant. Thank you again and I would like to take this moment to wish you a Merry Christmas.'*

## **News from Classical Sheffield**

Classical Sheffield is planning to create a massed collaborative music video with Classical Sheffield members early next year. Local conductor George Morton will produce the final video, which will be released on what would have been Classical Weekend 2021 which was postponed due to the pandemic. George will also arrange a piece for everyone to play or sing; the piece will include a few well-known Sheffield-based songs to celebrate the music, singers and instrumentalists of our wonderful city. We are hoping to be able to contribute to this collaboration, so look out for further information in the new year.

Classical Sheffield recently asked local music makers to share the experience of running rehearsals during the pandemic, so we put together a case study which has been shared on the Classical Sheffield website. Check it out at [Restarting Rehearsals - Member Case Studies](#). You will need to log in – user name is *member* and password is *moremusic*

## Ella Taylor runner-up in the prestigious Kathleen Ferrier Awards

Local soprano Ella Taylor came second in the 2020 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, a truly marvelous achievement. Their recitals are well worth listening to, at

<https://ferrierawards.org.uk/2020competition/>

### 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\\_oGCZaDgXSq](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfrUC_PFSuH7_oGCZaDgXSq)
- [www.sheffieldphil.org/Christmas](http://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 - 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 - Classical Sheffield YouTube channel**

The channel is open for contributions from Classical Sheffield members. You can currently listen to contributions by Ensemble 360, Abbeydale Singers and Hallam Sinfonia.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV5zfIjRBJNf-AKfzw4Czrg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV5zfIjRBJNf-AKfzw4Czrg?view_as=subscriber)

### **Reminder - St Luke's Carol Service Sunday 13 December 2020**

The carol service was 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.

### **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 - 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>

### **Reminder - 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=nXYbEywVXUk>.

### **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](mailto: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**.

## **Contact emails**

**Chair Paul Henstridge** [chairman@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:chairman@sheffieldphil.org)

**Administrator Anne Adams** [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)

**Membership Officer Marianne Grayson** [MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org)

**Finance Officer Graham Dawson** [GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org)

**New members Officer Sally Turnbull** [SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org](mailto: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](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org). The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>