

Warm-up at 7pm, then basses only, then everyone from 7.40pm

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Weekly Update Sunday 14 February 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." Plato

Next rehearsal Tuesday 16 February 2021

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 16 February 2021. After the warm up for everyone, it's basses only until 7.40 when everyone comes together again. We'll be rehearsing movement 12 of the Rachmaninov and the Faure movements 1, 2 and 3.

A reminder that it is vocally advantageous for everyone to warm up at 7pm, so we are all ready to sing rather than being vocally cold when we all come together. Many thanks.

A number of members have pointed out how challenging the Rachmaninov is proving to be, and have suggested that we ring the changes a bit now and then, by singing something just for the joy of it. Darius is in full agreement, so if you have any suggestions about pieces to sing-through, please let him know at dariusbattiwalla@talktalk.net, bearing in mind that the availability of scores will be a key limiting factor.

Don't forget that there are [links to rehearsal tracks on the Chorus website](#), as well as links to YouTube recordings, which will help you get to grips with the Rachmaninov. There are also links to recordings of the Russian pronunciation for one of the movements, and to Choraline, where you can buy a recording of the Russian translation alongside the rehearsal track for your voice part. The tracks cost £9.99 for the on-line version, £13.99 for CDs and you can get them here: <https://www.choraline.com/store/choraline-rehearsal-cds-and-mp3-files/rachmaninov-vespers-all-night-vigil-double-cd#.YA3VD-j7SUK>

Darius recommends listening to the Tenebrae/Nigel Short Rachmaninov recording on Spotify between rehearsals to familiarize your selves with the recording we use during rehearsals. If you're finding the sound a bit faint, then try using earphones, or even better, an internet connection via ethernet cable rather than wi-fi.

Please use this Faure: [https://www.cpd.org/wiki/images/3/37/Faure Requiem VS PML.pdf](https://www.cpd.org/wiki/images/3/37/Faure_Requiem_VS_PML.pdf) , unless your copy has bar numbers. You can also access it via the Members Area of the Chorus website, at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#)

We are using the same Zoom link each week:

<https://zoom.us/j/98573583645?pwd=czduZWUwdldOa09DWVpORU9UMktPUT09>

Meeting ID: 985 7358 3645

Passcode: 123456

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

Instructions for using Zoom can be found in the Members Area of the Chorus website

at Members Area / Rehearsals.

Here are the links to the recordings of last week's rehearsal, which you can use if you were missing or want to do a bit more work or practice your Russian a bit more. Grateful thanks to Kath Eadon for editing these for us.

- [Rachmaninov Vespers 3 S2 A T then SATB 9 February 2021](#)
- [Rachmaninov Vespers 12 S2 A T then SATB 9 February 2021](#)
- [G Fauré Requiem: Offertorium 9 February 2021](#)
- [G Fauré Requiem: Sanctus 9 February 2021](#)

Thanks as always to Darius, Rachel, Maggie and Marianne for organising and delivering the online rehearsals.

Maggie's coaching sessions

If you are on the coaching list you will receive an email with instructions on how to book a time slot on our very easy-to-use system. Once you've booked, an auto email response will confirm your time slot. On Tuesday at that time, please leave the main Zoom session, and click the separate meeting link below. You will find yourself in a waiting room. The message "*Please wait for the host to admit you*" will appear, and when Maggie is ready she will admit you to the session. At the end of your session, leave that meeting and return to the main rehearsal link. Thanks Maggie for all the help you are providing to our Chorus!

Link for Maggie's online coaching sessions

<https://zoom.us/j/93980852238?pwd=MjE3WTUwMXZCVXZRUHZ3NjcwN0tqZz09>

Final call for contributions to the Steel City Celebration!

Thank you to those who have already had a go at recording your Sheffield Phil contribution to this project, which will be launched on Friday 5 March on the Classical Sheffield YouTube channel. Please subscribe at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV5zfljRBJNf-AKfzw4Czrg>

If you haven't already, please do try to give it your best Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus support! If you need help contact Katie at classicalsheffieldcoordinator@gmail.com.

Music, recording guide tracks and instructions at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jo9b9pvlxkr3hq/AABJLuPlikbmE_VI7ICuCsO_a?dl=0

The deadline for submissions is next SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Those of you who use social media - please use the hashtags #SteelCityCelebrations and #ClassicalSheffield to help get a buzz going around this exciting project.

Listen to old recordings of our predecessor choir

The Sheffield Choir from which our Chorus was formed, made a number of recordings in the 1920s. Music enthusiast and antique gramophone enthusiast Graham Rankin has kindly captured these on YouTube and recently sent them to Anne Adams; you can listen to them using the links below. The HMV recordings made in 1921 were acoustically achieved without the aid of microphones. The 1928 recordings, by Columbia, would have been electronically achieved as this became the standard method in 1926.

- [‘Te Deum laudamus’ William Jackson 1928](#)
- [‘Let us now praise famous men’ Ecclesiasticus Walford Davies 1928](#)
- [“Lift up your heads, O ye gates” Messiah Handel 1921 HMV](#)
- [“And the glory of the Lord” Messiah Handel 1921 HMV](#)

A link to these recordings has been added to the Chorus website at [Recordings and Books](#)

Concerteenies fundraiser

If your children have ever attended a Polly Ives Concerteenies event you will know what valuable work her small business does in encouraging very young children to interact with, listen to and play music. Concerteenies has been awarded a grant to help fund their next project, but need to raise match funding. [Use this link if you want to find out more.](#)

Diary dates

Dates for 2020-21 yet to be confirmed: Sat 15 May 2021 (Rachmaninov’s *Vespers* - self funded concert in the cathedral); Sat 19 June 2021 (Faure *Requiem* – self funded but with some support from Halle Concert Society and SIV)

Dates for 2021-22 and beyond, yet to be confirmed: Saturday 18 December 2021 (City Hall carol concerts with Black Dyke Band). Saturday 23 April 2022 (re-scheduled Handel *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band, City Hall). Sunday 19 March 2023 (re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 2 City Hall),

Under discussion: Walton *Belshazzar’s Feast* at City Hall, Rutter *Gloria* with Black Dyke Band, re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 8 at Bridgewater Hall. The postponed Brahms *Song of Destiny* may happen in January 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 Singalong Concerts January to April 2021

Maggie is planning another term of concerts, during which she will play her favourite recording of the work listed and sing along to it. Do feel free to do the same in your own homes. Maggie will be with you in spirit as she performs these works in full evening dress in her music room at home! All concerts start at 7.30.

- February 20th Part 2 – The Kingdom – Elgar
- March 13th Part 1 – St. Matthew Passion - Bach
- March 20th Part 2 – St. Matthew Passion – Bach
- March 27th Parts 2 and 3 – The Messiah – Handel
- April 2nd Good Friday – St. John Passion – Bach
- April 4th Easter Sunday – The Resurrection – 2nd Symphony – Mahler

Reminder - Every Mind Matters

Public Health England has launched a nationwide [Better Health - Every Mind Matters](#) campaign to support people to take action to look after their mental health and wellbeing and help support others such as family and friends. The campaign encourages people to get a free [NHS-](#)

[approved Mind Plan](#) from the [Every Mind Matters website](#). By answering 5 simple questions, adults will get a personalised action plan with practical tips to help them deal with stress and anxiety, boost their mood, sleep better and feel more in control. The campaign is supported by a coalition of leading mental health charities, including Mind, Samaritans, Young Minds and Rethink. <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Reminder - Spotlight on Steel City Choristers

Classical Sheffield interviewed the Steel City Choristers, formed following the close-down of the cathedral choir. [Read all about the Steel City Choristers on the Classical Sheffield website](#).

Reminder - Rutter online project

Runbysingers online are organizing another online project, following their successful Online Mozart Requiem which attracted over 1000 singers from around the world and raised £4200 for cancer research. The Glory of Rutter starts rehearsing on 2 February and will feature Rutter's Gloria and two of his most popular anthems. There is a professional backing choir to assist rehearsals, live direction from the keyboard and sectional rehearsals for every part. Here is a 2 minute video demonstrating what Runbysingers Online is all about - and how it is different from a typical Zoom rehearsal. <https://b.link/cusdf> Full details of the online Glory of Rutter can be found at <https://b.link/u5cd9>.

Reminder - organ recitals from Leeds Town Hall

The organ recitals from Leeds Town Hall are available via live audio stream. Darius is the Town Hall organist and will present many of the concerts, though not all of them. [Use this link to listen to the concerts from Leeds Town Hall](#).

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**.

Contact emails

MD Darius Battiwalla dariusbattiwalla@talktalk.net

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/>