

Combined live and virtual rehearsal Tue 18 May 2021; Desert Island Discs; Invitation to Classical Sheffield meeting Thursday 20 May at 6pm; Diary dates; Reminders - free vocal health leaflets, Darius new CD; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

**Weekly Update 16 May 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

## **Combined live and virtual rehearsal on Tuesday 18 May 2021**

On Tuesday 18 May 2021 we will re-commence part-live, part-virtual rehearsals, either at home or at the Wesley Hall, Crookes. Those members who stated, via the recent on-line survey, their wish to sing live, have been contacted and should respond to Marianne about the dates offered as soon as possible.

The previous Risk Assessment and Covid-secure arrangements remain relevant and will be used, so if you are attending live please make sure you have read and understand these – they were sent along with the invitation to sing live. You will also find them on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#), along with the lists of who should attend on which date. Do feel free to take a lateral flow test if you'd like and are able to; however, because these are neither universally available nor mandatory, the need to take one before attending is not obligatory.

The plan is for us to have five small-group rehearsals, ie from this coming Tuesday 18 May to Tuesday 15 June 2021. If restrictions are lifted in accordance with the original route map, then the following two rehearsals, on 22 and 29 June, will involve all 80 members who volunteered to sing live via the survey, plus those who indicated their wish to start singing live before the summer. Of course, the further lifting of restrictions in June may be delayed, as you will probably all know.

It goes without saying that anyone who feels ill should not attend, and anyone who decides that singing live is too much of a risk after all may drop out at any time. However, please let our Membership Officer Marianne Grayson know if you are on the rehearsal list and are unable to make it, so she can arrange for a substitute as soon as possible.

We will be rehearsing the Rachmaninov and the Faure until the end of term (see Diary Dates below), so please have your copies of both works to hand on Tuesday. In order to keep the difficulty of the Rachmaninov to an absolute minimum, Darius suggests that we just do movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 and 15.

It's the usual Zoom link for those not attending live on Tuesday:

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

**Instructions for using Zoom can be found in the Members Area of the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).**

Don't forget that you can use the Members Area of the Chorus website to find these recordings – as well as music, rehearsal tracks and YouTube recordings, and Maggie's vocal exercises. You will find everything at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#) and [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing Your Voice](#). Log-in details are at the end of each update.

## **Desert Island Discs**

Here is the link to last week's fantastic Desert Island Discs. Many thanks to Kath Eadon for editing this, especially as it takes so long and is fraught with complicated copyright issues!

- [Rachel's Desert Island Disc choices 11 May 2021](#)

Grateful thanks to our President Rachel Copley for sharing her desert island discs with us, and to Darius for interviewing so well. The choice of music was wonderfully uplifting, with firm favourites as well as gorgeous new discoveries. And for those who experienced it, the thunderclap accompaniment to the stupendous climax to Mahler's Symphony Number 2 was just marvellous!

Numerous members have written in to express how much pleasure the two sessions have given them, especially in these taxing times. We have all really enjoyed sharing in the musical lives of these two delightful, talented people – thank you both so much for sharing your choices – and your enjoyment of them!

If you missed either session then they are well worth watching on YouTube using the links provided above and in a previous update, and on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)

### **Invitation to Classical Sheffield meeting Thursday 20 May at 6pm**

Classical Sheffield is inviting all members to a Classical Weekend Zoom meeting where you can find out more about plans for Classical Weekend 2023. SPC already knows how it will be involved – we are joining Hallam Choral Society, Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra and Hallam Sinfonia to present Mahler's Resurrection Symphony in the City Hall as the festival finale. However, if anyone wishes to attend the meeting, perhaps on behalf of another choir you may be a member of, please feel free. The Zoom meeting will take place on Thursday 20 May at 6pm, and the Zoom link will be sent nearer the time. Please register your interest in attending this meeting by contacting Coordinator, Katie Williamson, at [classicalsheffieldcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:classicalsheffieldcoordinator@gmail.com).

Classical Sheffield has set up a private Facebook Group so that members can get in touch with each other directly. It would be great if those of you who use Facebook could join this group - just click on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/classicalsheffieldnetwork>.

### **Diary dates (*dates in italics are electives*)**

#### **Dates for 2020-21 yet to be confirmed**

We are looking at the feasibility of having a very informal, free performance of the Faure *Requiem* and the Rachmaninov *All Night Vigil* movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 and 15, hopefully on Saturday 3rd July 2021. The performance will be open to family and friends only, and will be followed by a social get-together to celebrate the fact that that we can sing together again. Details are still being worked out, and are dependent on what happens regarding the Covid restrictions.

#### **Dates for 2021-22 and beyond**

- *Saturday 9 October 2021 (Memorial service for Sue Spence, Firth Hall) - elective*
- *Sunday 12 December 2021 (St Luke's carol service) - elective*
- Saturday 18 December 2021 (City Hall carol concert(s) with Black Dyke Band)
- Saturday 23 April 2022 (re-scheduled Handel *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band, City Hall) – yet to be confirmed
- Sunday 19 March 2023 (re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 2 City Hall)

## Under discussion

- An After Hours concert in the City Hall ballroom, November 2021
- Walton *Belshazzar's Feast* at City Hall, June 2022
- Faure *Requiem* at City Hall, January 2022
- Re-scheduled Verdi *Requiem* at City Hall, sometime in 2022-23
- re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 8 at Bridgewater Hall possibly May/June 2023
- Rutter *Gloria* - Black Dyke Band keen to do this with us sometime

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 - Vocal health online – free leaflet

Maggie tells us that the BVA (British Voice Association) of which she is a member, publishes leaflets about voice care and health, and their most recent is about maintaining a healthy voice whilst working online. You can find the leaflet, along with a number of others that may be useful, on the [Free Leaflets section of their website](#). Maggie also says she is happy to email or chat to anyone who has vocal concerns – please contact Anne Adams in the first instance at [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org)

## Reminder - Darius organ CD now available

The long-awaited CD that Darius mentioned recently is now available from base2music. On it, Darius performs the rarely heard Sonata in C minor by Percy Whitlock, on Rochdale Town Hall's powerful and smooth J.J.Binns organ. There's also Lynwood Farnam's *Toccata* and Fela Sowando's *Kyrie*, a wonderful piece which Darius played in France. The CD costs £18 from the link below. Darius will also take copies for folk to buy to the first live rehearsals (hopefully in June).

<https://www.base2music.store/#!/Percy-Whitlock-Organ-Sonata-Rochdale-Town-Hall-Darius-Battiwalla-SACD-disc/p/348512397/category=0>

## 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

MD Darius Battiwalla [dariusbattiwalla@talktalk.net](mailto:dariusbattiwalla@talktalk.net)

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/>