

## **Tues rehearsal for tenors only (see below)**

Concert and social on Sat 3 July 2021; combined live and virtual rehearsal for tenors only Tue 25 May 2021; Petition about restrictions to singers; Diary dates; Reminders - free vocal health leaflets, Darius new CD; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

**Weekly Update Sunday 23 May 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

## **Concert and social on Saturday 3 July 2021**

We are determined to end our 20-21 season in a positive way that enables us to get back to the key business of the Chorus – performing, while at the same time rewarding members for their loyalty and perseverance in rehearsing on Zoom during the pandemic.

We are therefore planning a performance of selected sections of Rachmaninov's *All Night Vigil* and Faure's *Requiem* at 6pm on Saturday 3 July 2021 in St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield. Joshua Stephens, previously organist at Sheffield Cathedral, will accompany the Faure on the organ. The concert will be free and open to family and friends only. The audience will be socially distanced, unless the restrictions have been lifted as planned by then. If not, we will of course follow all the Covid precautions as required.

We also want to celebrate the fact that we managed to stay positive and committed through these unprecedented times, and that we can at last get together as a Chorus of singers and friends. So the concert will be immediately followed by a social event at which all members can hopefully let our hair down and have a jolly good time.

The concert music will be Rachmaninov movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 and 15, and Faure movements 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7. The 6pm performance will follow an afternoon rehearsal from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, and will involve those members who have been rehearsing the two works via Zoom. Other Chorus members are warmly invited to come along and listen - and of course to stay for the social event!

## **Combined live and virtual rehearsal for tenors only on Tuesday 25 May 2021**

Despite great effort on the part of many, the Government has yet to lift the restrictions for singers which came into force last Tuesday. After much discussion, Darius, Rachel and the committee agreed that we would go ahead with part-live, part-virtual rehearsals in preparation for the concert on 3 July – but for each voice part in turn, and with only six people singing. So each of the next four rehearsals will be organised as follows:

- each rehearsal will be online via Zoom and at the Wesley Hall Crookes
- each will involve just one voice part ie either tenor, bass, soprano or alto
- members of the voice part concerned will rehearse all the music for the concert on 3 July
- the members who are already on the 'live singing' lists will be invited to attend on the following revised dates: 25<sup>th</sup> May = tenors, 1<sup>st</sup> June = basses, 8<sup>th</sup> June = sopranos, 15<sup>th</sup> June = altos
- six singers from those attending at the Wesley Hall will be selected to sing; these (plus Darius and Rachel) will be the only people able to remove face coverings
- the remaining members who are attending live may hum if they wish, but must leave face coverings on
- each rehearsal will be open to members from the same voice part to attend via Zoom

- members from other voice parts are welcome to attend via Zoom if they wish; however the rehearsal will involve only the voice part indicated – no other parts will be rehearsed
- all Covid-secure measures used previously at Wesley Hall will remain in place
- in addition, we will ask those who are able, to provide evidence of *either* two vaccinations or a recent negative lateral-flow test

**So, on Tuesday 25 May 2021 we will have a part-live, part-virtual rehearsal for tenors only, either at home or at the Wesley Hall, Crookes. The tenors will rehearse the music for the concert on Saturday 3 July.**

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 recent invitation to sing live. You will also find them on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

The arrangements listed above are not nearly as satisfactory as those originally planned, but they do move the Chorus on to another stage and enable rehearsals for the 3 July concert to go ahead in what is probably the most useful way possible under the circumstances.

If restrictions are lifted in accordance with the original route map, then the 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. However, the rehearsals will focus exclusively on the 3 July concert, so anyone who has missed a sizeable proportion of the relevant Zoom rehearsals or recordings is unlikely to be able to catch up at this stage.

Of course, the further lifting of restrictions in June may be delayed, as you will probably all know. Also, 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.

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.

### **Petition about the restrictions to singers (attachment)**

There's a parliamentary petition to allow non-professional singing in groups of more than six indoors. It's not been widely publicised but already has over 12,000 signatures. Please both share and sign if you feel you agree. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/586559>

Many people are writing to their MP about this issue, including members of our committee. Attached is a template letter provided by the choral directors' forum for choir members to send to their own MP. Please consider expanding the text of this letter to personalise it, mentioning SPC as well as perhaps your profession, and why singing has been and continues to be important to you.

You can find your MP's email address here: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

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

### Dates for 2020-21

- Saturday 3 July 2021 at 6pm: performance of Faure's *Requiem* movements 1,3,4,5 and 7, and Rachmaninov's *All Night Vigil* movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 and 15. The performance will be held in St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield. Joshua Stevens will accompany the Faure on the organ. The concert will be free and open to family and friends only, and will be immediately followed by a social event at which all members can hopefully let our hair down and have a jolly good time.

### 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 *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

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/>