

Tues rehearsal for altos – altos please respond to Marianne if you haven't already.

Combined live and virtual rehearsal for sopranos Tue 15 June 2021; Answers to your frequently asked questions about rehearsals; Link to rehearsal recordings; Making Music asks us to act!; Donations for the Chorus via Amazon; Music in the Round are hiring; Steel City Choristers looking for children to join; Diary dates; Reminders - Concert and social on Sat 3 July 2021, Music Hub recording; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Weekly Update Sunday 13 June 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Combined live and virtual rehearsal on Tuesday 15 June 2021 - altos

On Tuesday 15 June 2021 we will have a part-live, part-virtual rehearsal for altos, either at home or at the Wesley Hall, Crookes. We will rehearse the music for the concert on Saturday 3 July, ie, Rachmaninov movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 & 15, and Faure movements 1, 3, 5, 6 & 7.

Thank you to those altos who have confirmed your live attendance at Wesley Hall on Tues 8th June. **If you have not yet responded to the invitation, Marianne would appreciate your confirmation as soon as possible.**

Although Darius will focus on the alto part throughout the rehearsal, all members are welcome to attend via Zoom. Those who have attended the previous sectionals report that they found them extremely useful, despite the focus on someone else's line. So do join the altos on Tuesday if you can!

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](#).

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](#).

Thanks as always to Darius, Rachel and Marianne for organising and running the rehearsal, and to Paul, James, Jim and Anne for help at Wesley Hall.

Answers to your frequently asked questions about rehearsals

- **How come everyone can now sing, rather than just six people?** All the lobbying and petitioning has resulted in a response from ministers that makes clear that the 'six singers only' rule does not apply if a choir is preparing for a professional event – ie, a concert. Making Music and our insurers have confirmed this. Since we are doing the Faure at a City Hall concert in January 2022, we are allowed to rehearse it in groups larger than six – as long as we socially distance (and follow all the other measures of course).
- **Will vaccine/test status be checked?** No, we are requesting people are either double vaccinated or have a negative lateral flow test on the day of the rehearsal, and trusting our members to comply.
- **What about face coverings?** Face coverings must be worn until we start to sing.

- **What's happening next week?** The next two rehearsals on 22 and 29 June are very likely to involve all 80 members who volunteered to sing live via the survey, and perhaps those who indicated their wish to start singing live before the summer. A number of committee members are meeting at the venue next week to work out how to meet the Covid requirements with 80 singers – eg how to socially distance all 80 of us. We are checking Making Music's guidance (<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/news/england-step-3-guidance-choirs>) and have a committee meeting next week to work out what is possible and how it can work. We will let everyone know in the next weekly update. Remember that the two 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.
- **What if I said I would sing live but I've changed my mind?** 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.
- **Is it too late to sign the petition about the 'six singers only' rule?** Not at all – it's still worth signing, and writing to your MP – see the Making Music item below for details if you want to help.

Link to rehearsal recordings

Here are links to the recording of last week's rehearsal of the soprano line. Grateful thanks to Kath Eadon for editing these.

- [Fauré Requiem Basses 1 June 2021](#)
- [Rachmaninov Vespers Basses 1 June 2021](#)

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.

Making Music asks us to act! (attachment)

Making Music, Singing Network UK, Association of British Orchestras (ABO), Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM), UK Music, Music Publishers Association and the Music Industries Association have written to Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer, and Dr Jenny Harries OBE at Public Health England.

They ask that the evidence be published which has prompted the decision to single out choirs, out of all organised amateur activity (music, theatre, dance, sport) as the only one not safe enough to re-start, and that the conditions be made explicit under which choirs may re-start meeting indoors in numbers greater than 6, to allow forward planning.

Here is the [response to the first industry joint letter](#) to Caroline Dinenage, Minister of State for Digital and Culture at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It is identical to the letter sent on her behalf to MPs over the last few days. It seems clear that the situation won't change until Step 4 is announced – and since this may well be delayed, our full rehearsals - and the concert on 3 July – are at risk.

Jo Towler, Chair of Classical Sheffield and CEO of Music in the Round, wrote to the Sheffield Telegraph last week – [here is a link to the Sheffield Telegraph article](#).

Making Music ask choir members to do any or all of the following:

- Write to your MP, telling her/him what being in a choir means to you, to your community, for the constituency, etc, and asking that s/he asks a parliamentary question about this. There are currently 20 parliamentary questions tabled in the House of Commons. Attached is a template letter provided by the choral directors' forum. You can find your MP's email address here: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>
- Write to the relevant ministers (Caroline Dinenage, Minister of State for Digital and Culture; Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and the Permanent Secretary (Sarah Healey) at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport at enquiries@dcms.gov.uk
- Write to members of the House of Lords – any and all of them! <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/peers/>. Some that we know have an interest are: Lord Berkeley of Knighton, Baroness Walmsely, Lord Stevenson of Balmacara, Lord Wallace of Saltaire, Lord Vaizey of Didcot, Lord Roberts of Llandudno. There are currently 4 parliamentary questions tabled in the House of Lords.
- Sign the parliamentary petition (now has over 54,000 signatures). Please both share and sign if you feel you agree. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/586559>

Donations for the Chorus if you shop with Amazon – double for Prime members!

For those of you who use Amazon for online shopping, please consider generating donations for The Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus by shopping at [AmazonSmile](#). There's a special promotion coming up, for those of you who are Prime members. If you shop Amazon Prime Day deals from 21st – 22nd June using smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1175185-0 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, then AmazonSmile will DOUBLE donations to the Chorus.

Music in the Round are Hiring!

Music in the Round is seeking a new Participation and Events Coordinator. The person who is recruited will join at an exciting time as Music in the Round focuses on fully integrating all their strands of activity in the concert hall and local communities in partnership with venues and organisations in Sheffield. [Find out more here](#). For further information, please contact: edward@musicintheround.co.uk. Application deadline: 9am, Wednesday 30 June 2021

Steel City Choristers seeking children aged 7 and above

The Steel City Choristers, who sing in churches across Sheffield, are seeking children aged 7 and upwards to join the choir. See <https://steelcitychoristers.org.uk> for information about the choir. If your child is interested in joining, email steelcitychoristers@gmail.com.

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 - 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, if Covid restrictions allow, 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!

Reminder - Music Hub – We Are Family

Have a listen to this up-lifting performance of 'We Are Family' by students (and a few staff) from Sheffield Music Hub. Great to see the quality achieved by these enthusiastic youngsters!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFzaweBlv20>

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

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/>