

Important – Tues rehearsal, concert arrangements and how to get tickets – see below

Live and virtual rehearsal Tue 29 June 2021; Arrangements for the concert of 3 July 2021; Concert tickets and arrangements for the audience; Answers to your frequently asked questions about rehearsals; Link to rehearsal recordings; Request to complete survey by one of our altos; Diary dates; Reminders – sign petition, Music in the Round are hiring, Steel City Choristers looking for children to join; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Weekly Update Sunday 27 June 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Live / virtual rehearsal on Tuesday 29 June 2021

On Tuesday 29 June we will have the second live rehearsal at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, for those who will sing at the informal concert on Saturday 3rd July 2021. We will rehearse the Rachmaninov movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 & 15, and Faure movements 1, 3, 5, 6 & 7. There may be some moving around to see how singers and audience might best be fit into the space.

All members who are not attending live are of course very welcome – indeed encouraged - to attend the rehearsal via Zoom. The link is the one we have been using each week:

<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](#).

It is very important that everyone who attends has read and understood the general Risk Assessment and 'What to do' for St Mark's (circulated last week). You will also find the two documents on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#). Please note there is a separate 'What To Do and Expect' document relating to the concert (see below; attached).

Thanks as always to Darius, Rachel and Marianne for organising and running the rehearsals, and to Maggie, Georgina, Kath, Paul, James, Ben, Jim and Anne for helping in various ways.

Arrangements for the concert on Saturday 3 July 2021 (two attachments)

The performance will be 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. Please make sure you have read the new 'What To Do and Expect' document relating to the concert (attached).

SatNav for St Mark's is S10 2SE or follow signs to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital which is next door. The 120 bus stops at the Hallamshire Hospital, the 51 and 52 both stop in Broomhill, which is about a 10 minute walk from the church.

Unfortunately car parking at St Mark's is extremely limited, as is nearby on-street parking. A few weeks ago we asked about parking at King Edward's, but they have new code-protected gates and caretaker Scott was unable to get permission for us to have the code in time for the concert. You could try Parker's Lane, S10 2SR, or Q Park Durham Road S10 2JA, or Royal Hallamshire Hospital S10 2TB or Broomhill Rooftop, above the Broomhill shopping parade, accessed via Spooner Road, S10 5BA, or Spooner Road car park, 45 Spooner Rd, Sheffield S10 5BL

The concert music will be Rachmaninov movements 1, 3, 6, 8, 13 and 15, and Faure movements 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Steve Terry will sing the baritone solo in 'Liberia Me'. Please bring your black folders to hold the music. There will be an afternoon rehearsal from 2.30pm to

4.30pm. Please make sure you sign in for the rehearsal before entering the body of the church – so don't forget your membership card! You won't need to sign in again for the concert, in fact, the signing-in table will be removed.

Covid restrictions mean there are no changing facilities for anyone, nor anywhere to store bags etc. There are no exceptions to this so please come with as little stuff as possible, and keep whatever you do bring with you at all times. You'll either need to come already dressed for the concert, or get changed – away from the premises - after the rehearsal.

Concert dress will be all black, no scarves, and short sleeved tops if folk prefer as it may be hot - but not short skirts (ankle length trousers fine for ladies as usual). We've kept it all black so nobody will need to buy anything new – it's basically concert dress but with a choice of sleeve length and no need for scarves as they can be difficult to attach and there are no changing facilities.

Chorus members must leave the church immediately after the rehearsal at 4.30pm, so the building can be ventilated. Covid rules mean you won't be able to eat your packed tea inside the church, but you can use the church green as long as you stay socially distanced; you could also walk to the Botanical Gardens. There are lots of places to eat at Broomhill - try [Remo's](#), [Vittles café](#), [Thyme café](#), [Butcher and Catch](#), and for sandwiches etc there's a Morrisons, a Tesco and a Sainsbury's.

Singers should assemble outside entry point 2 (see attached church plan) at 5.45pm; you'll need to stay socially distanced please. Please stay away from entry point 1, which is for the audience only.

Please stay seated after the concert until the audience has left the building. Once they have all left, Chorus members on the right hand side (facing the altar) should leave via exit point 1, those on the left leaving via exit point 2 (adjacent to the lounge).

The attached church plan and 'What To Do' document are on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#).

Concert tickets and arrangements for the audience

We will be setting out seats on Tuesday to finalise how many people we can safely allow to sing and listen. However, we are fairly sure we will need to restrict audience numbers to 40, or possibly up to 50, people. We are therefore restricting tickets to ONE per Chorus member in the first instance. Having to restrict tickets in this way is very disappointing but we have no choice about this. We do hope everyone understands.

Please book tickets by emailing Anne Adams (eg via reply to this update), saying whether you want one or two tickets. They'll be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, second tickets only being allocated if all 50 are not taken up on the initial 'one each' basis. People who have booked already (ie via an earlier email to Anne) need not book again, but will be restricted to one ticket each in the first instance. Anne will send a return email, confirming that you have been allocated a ticket, though no tickets will be distributed, either paper or virtual. Audience members will be ticked against the allocation list as they enter the venue.

Please make sure all audience members have read the attached 'What To Do and Expect' document; this, together with the attached church plan, is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#).

We will have to charge a very small entrance fee to ensure our insurance policy remains valid and to comply with Government guidelines in relation to the number of singers allowed to perform at concerts. The fee will be £1 per ticket, which will be added to Chorus funds. There

will be a receptacle at the door into which audience members can drop a pound coin or the correct silver (or more if desired). Please bring the correct change so that nobody needs to handle the coins.

Audience members should enter the building via entry point 1 (see attached plan); please stay away from entry point 2, which is for performers only. Audience attendance will be recorded on the ticket allocation list to which contact details will have been added using the Chorus database, or will be added either manually or by using the NHS app. A steward will ask the audience to use hand sanitiser, keep socially distant and show them to their seat in the area shown on the attached plan. At the end of the concert the Chorus will remain seated whilst audience members leave via exit point 1.

We are all so very disappointed that the social event, which was to have followed the concert, can no longer take place because of the maintenance of restrictions until 19 July 2021. Instead we are planning to have a shorter-than-usual sing at our first rehearsal on Tuesday 7th September 2021, followed by a social.

Answers to your frequently asked questions about rehearsals

- **How come we're no longer restricted to 30 people?** Ministers have made clear that the 'six singers only' rule does not apply if a choir is preparing for a professional event, and Making Music and our insurers have confirmed this. Since we are doing the Faure at a City Hall concert in January 2022, all members who have been rehearsing live are allowed to rehearse together as long as we can socially distance them all (and follow all the other measures of course). We can present a concert in socially-distanced larger groups, as long as the concert is a ticketed event for which a fee has been paid. We have hired St Mark's in order to provide the larger space required for this.
- **How do we know St Mark's Church is Covid-secure?** We have checked the venue's own Covid-19 Risk Assessment, and a site visit confirmed our singers can be accommodated with the required social distancing. We have used Making Music's guidance (<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/news/england-step-3-guidance-choirs>) as well as that from the [Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#). Our own Risk Assessment and the 'What To Do and Expect' document set out the Covid-secure arrangements we have put in place for both rehearsals and the concert.
- **Will vaccine/test status be checked?** No. We **are** requesting that people are either double vaccinated or have a negative lateral flow test on the day of the rehearsal, but we are trusting members to comply. We will continue to take everyone's temperature on the way into the venue.
- **I'm not on the singing list. Can I come on Tuesday?** Unfortunately not. Covid-19 safety precautions mean that numbers have to be controlled much more carefully, and limited to what is safe. Only those on the singing list may sing in the concert and attend the live rehearsals. We do hope everyone understands.
- **What about face coverings – and chatting?** Face coverings must be worn until we start to sing and after we've finished – and we can't stay to chat after the rehearsal.
- **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 – see the Making Music update below for details if you want to help.

This information is also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

Link to rehearsal recordings

Here are links to the recording of last week's rehearsal at St Mark's. Grateful thanks to Kath Eadon for editing these – despite the less-than-excellent quality of the recording, which was down to the equipment's limitations in handling the acoustic. Sadly, due to technical hitches, the alto rehearsal from the week before is not available.

- [Fauré Requiem 22 June 2021](#)
- [Rachmaninov Vespers 22 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.

Request to complete a survey by one of our altos

Alto Amy Howe, who volunteered some time ago to be our Marketing and Publicity Officer starting in September, is doing some research into the impact Covid has had on choirs (for her Masters degree in Music Management). She asks if Chorus members would help by completing a short survey. There's a mix of 'tick the box' and free response, and it only takes about 15 to 20 minutes. Amy would be really grateful to have your help! You will find the survey at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsU3IIROoUq3DgRoPEv8IX_5QokeudJcdSjQ6pea4b4JVsjQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

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.

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 - Making Music update – sign the petition

Making Music [has now written to Oliver Dowden](#) at the DCMS to ask whether the government has received further scientific advice around the safety of singing, and if not, why the guidance contains these inconsistencies. In addition, Making Music and abcd have launched the new [WellRehearsed free risk management rehearsal app](#) for all music groups to use to collect anonymous data, and help build a sector-wide picture of the spread of the virus. **Anne Adams is using the app on behalf of the Chorus.**

Making Music is still working closely with fellow organisations including Association of British Choral Directors, Association of British Orchestras, Incorporated Society of Musicians, Royal School of Church Music, Musicians Union, and members of the Singing Network UK, trying to

- understand what underlies the '6 singers only' limit
- identify how to achieve change of the current guidance and make sure that when Step 4 happens, choirs are able to meet on the same footing as other non-professional music or other non-professional arts groups.

The [petition to allow choirs to meet indoors](#) has over 58,000 signatures and is still worth signing to force a debate in Westminster Hall, keep the pressure on the government and DCMS, and to raise awareness with the public about this issue.

Reminder - Music in the Round is 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

Reminder - 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.

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/>