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**Weekly Update Sunday 12 December 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

**Next rehearsal Tuesday 14 December 2021 at King Edward's Upper School**

Our next rehearsal will be on Tue 14 Dec 2021, at King Edwards Upper School at 7pm. Please remember that Darius would prefer members to attend **every** rehearsal, even if they are not singing in a particular concert, so that the whole chorus benefits from the training received each week.

We'll be rehearsing the Christmas music, including your 100 Carols for Choirs and a print-out of *Resonet in laudibus*, which you can download from the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#). This is the compulsory piano rehearsal for the concert, so let's hope everyone has done a bit of work and we won't need to go over any notes! Here are two links that folk might find useful:

- [Ring the Bells Tenebrae on YouTube](#)
- [Silent Night arr Battiwalla on YouTube](#)

Please can a few chorus members open the windows when they arrive, and other close them at the end of our rehearsal? We've said we will do this so the caretaker doesn't need to, as otherwise he goes round closing some of them before we finish singing, which isn't so safe.

Darius has updated the rehearsal schedule to the end of the season. You can view and download it from <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>; the link is also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#).

Drivers please enter via the gates from Glossop Road only, as the vehicle gates from Newbould Lane will be locked. Please note that you need to centre your vehicle as you approach the gates to ensure that they open. Cars may leave via either gate. Those on foot or bicycle should use the pedestrian gates, which are permanently unlocked and will open given a good strong push. The pedestrian gates are to the right of the vehicle gates (Glossop Road) or to the left (Newbould Lane). Many thanks for your usual cheerful co-operation!

For travel and access details see [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) or [Join Us / Rehearsals](#) - user name and password are at the bottom of every update.

**Arrangements for Christmas concert on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Arrangements have been on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#) for some time. They have been updated since the Government's plan B was announced, and are

duplicated below; **please read carefully especially the Covid/health and safety measures (see below).**

The concert is on Saturday 18 December 2021 at 2.30pm in the City Hall. The concert running order is here: [Concert running order](#)

There will be a compulsory pre-concert conductor's rehearsal from 12 noon to 1.30pm in the City Hall. Your place at the 12 noon rehearsal on the day will be your place at the concert, so please make a note of your immediate neighbours so we can line up in order.

The seating plan is a bit different this year, as we will be using the organ stalls as well as the choir risers, so we can spread out. The seating plan will be circulated by separate email before the concert; please examine it, and the instructions that come with it, carefully.

Every chorus member will need to watch Darius like a hawk, and sing out with confidence, given the City Hall's very dry acoustic and the fact that we will be more spread out than usual. In these circumstances it really won't work if everyone waits for someone else to come in, so every chorus member needs to make sure they have their copies well marked with Darius' instructions, and know the pieces (see practice links above).

On the day you will be able to get into the City Hall from around 11.30am, using the Stage Door entrance which is round the back, on the right as you look at the hall, down a short flight of steps. There's a bell on the right if the door is locked.

Please make sure you sign in – the table will be set out in the production corridor. From the Stage Door walk through the double doors on the left of the foyer, through another set of double doors, past the conductor dressing rooms, and on the right just beyond yet another set of double doors. We will need to sign out again on leaving, and may well be issued with wrist bands. Please try your best not to linger too long round the signing-in table.

Please make your way to the stage for the 12 noon rehearsal as quickly as you can, so that there is no crowding on the corridors and we don't get in the way of the Black Dyke Band. Ask at the Stage Door if you don't know the way to get on to the stage, or arrange to go with a choir member who does know. Sopranos and tenors enter stage right (up the stairs just next to the Stage Door) while altos and basses enter stage left, which is up the stairs on the opposite side of the building - walk past the sign-in desk through a further set of double doors to get to these. Seconds will be behind firsts in each voice part.

Dressing rooms have yet to be confirmed, but we are likely to be allocated to the Vincent Harris and Barbirolli suites. There should be signage to both suites - ask at the Stage Door if there isn't. They are small and will be very cramped, and it would be a big help if as many members as possible could arrive already in concert dress. You can leave your bags in the dressing rooms but don't leave valuables as the rooms won't be locked. Those bringing a packed lunch can eat in the dressing rooms or adjacent corridors, but please leave these spaces as we find them. Those with mobility issues, and those dressing the stage, may use Dressing Room 1, which is at stage entrance level on the soprano and tenor side - though there are still stairs to climb, just not so many!

Please line up in order on the stairs leading to the stage entrances, at 2.15pm at the latest, as it takes a good 7 or 8 minutes for us all to get on stage and into our seats. A member of the City Hall staff will give us the cue to go on stage. There will be a short interval, but there's only time for a comfort break as it takes time to get off stage, and we need to be back in our seats again before the second half starts.

We will be in full concert dress; please check the dress code, especially if you are new. [Check what you can and can't wear here.](#) However, for the Christmas concert gentlemen may wear a

snazzy or Christmassy bow tie, and ladies may add Christmas jewellery, eg flashing ear-rings. Please note that everyone should wear a face covering at all times while in the City Hall, keeping them on until just before the rehearsal/concert starts. The audience are likely to be required to wear face coverings, so we should too.

If you want a concert programme then you'll need to buy one from the box office.

Please store all music in your black Chorus folders. You may find it useful to wind narrow black elastic round the folder to secure your copies; this method is especially useful for large sheets which tend not to fit the in-built cords. You can buy the elastic from any haberdashery store. You can't see it from the audience.

Please observe the relevant sections of our [stage procedure which you will find here](#).

Please read the Health and Safety procedure listed below, in particular to make yourself aware of the evacuation procedure. Please don't wear after shave or perfume, as some members have quite serious allergies and it can affect breathing.

- do not attend if you have C-19 symptoms or have been exposed to an infected person
- do not attend unless you have had two vaccinations AND a recent negative lateral flow or PCR test
- wear a face covering at all times except when singing
- use any hand sanitisers provided, and don't share music etc
- stay distanced as much as you can, especially on narrow corridors
- bring your own drinks and don't share them
- come in concert dress so you don't need to use the cramped dressing rooms
- don't use breakable vessels in dressing rooms
- store and carry hot drinks safely
- no drinks on stage during the performance
- keep belongings out of thoroughfares, especially in restricted areas
- take care when using the stairs and steps to the stage
- make sure you know the emergency evacuation procedure (below)

In the event of an emergency, a continuous alarm will be sounded and we will be directed out to either the war memorial on Barker's Pool (fire), or to Devonshire Green (bomb alert). Follow the directions of marshals and leave in an orderly fashion. Do not try to retrieve belongings.

### **Station carols cancelled**

Sadly, yesterday the Heart Research CEO decided to cancel all their Sing for Your Heart events this year, due to Covid. Local Community Engagement officer Rachel Brooke passed on her *'kindest regards to all the choir'* and hopes we can sing next year. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for this very popular elective, which of course now can't take place. If you have music from either of the previous two events, please take it to rehearsal on Tuesday and return it to Alan, Rosemary and Anne. Many thanks.

Thank you to those who sang at the Classical Sheffield event on Saturday in Sheffield Central Library foyer. It went very well, with people listening on the stairs, on each of the library's floors. Someone left their reading glasses – see Anne at rehearsal if that was you!

### **Message from our President Rachel Copley**

Unfortunately, Rachel is unable to sing at the Christmas carol concert on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December, but sent the following message to everyone:

*'May I send to you all my very best wishes for a wonderful, and long awaited, Christmas, with family and friends, and for a healthy, hopeful, and happy New Year, with much music making to come. I will think of you all next Saturday, trusting that all goes smoothly, safely, and enjoyably for you all. With love, Rachel X'*

### **Christmas CDs for sale**

Anne Adams will bring copies of our Christmas CD to rehearsal, to sell at the much-reduced price of £5 to anyone who wants a copy. Correct change would be much appreciated!

### **Invitation to sing Jenkins' *Requiem* (attachment)**

Bakewell Choral Society is starting rehearsals in January for Karl Jenkins' *Requiem* and have invited SPC members to rehearse and sing with them. Attached is the official document giving all the details. There's a form to submit to Rosemary Wolfe at [roewolfe@gmail.com](mailto:roewolfe@gmail.com) if you'd like to join them; the form is available at [www.bakewellchoral.co.uk](http://www.bakewellchoral.co.uk)

### **Diary dates (*dates in italics are electives, ie, voluntary*)**

Confirmed 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).

#### 2021-22

- Saturday 18 December 2021 2.30pm: City Hall carol concert with Black Dyke Band and Petroc Trelawny (part of SICS). Compulsory rehearsals Tue 14 Dec at KES, and Sat 18 Dec at 12 noon until 1.30pm at the City Hall. Full concert dress as usual, but men can wear fancy bow ties and ladies can wear Christmas jewelry.
- Saturday 15 January 2022 7pm: Faure *Requiem* City Hall Manchester Camerata (part of SICS). Compulsory rehearsals Tue 11 Jan at KES, and Sat 15 Jan 14.30 to 16.00 at the City Hall.
- Saturday 12 March 2022: Rachmaninov *All Night Vigil* St Mark's Church Broomhill. Self-funded. Compulsory rehearsals Tue 08 Mar 7pm at KES and Sat 12 Mar 2.30 to 5.30pm at St Mark's
- Saturday 23 April 2022: Re-scheduled Handel *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band, City Hall, with German and French choirs. Self funded. Compulsory rehearsals Thu 21 Apr 2022 7pm at KES and Sat 23 Apr 2.30 to 5.30pm at City Hall.
- Saturday 11 June 2022: Walton *Belshazzar's Feast* at City Hall (part of SICS). Compulsory rehearsals Tue 07 Jun 7pm at KES and Sat 11 June 2.30 to 5.30 at City Hall

#### 2022-23

- Saturday in December 2022: City Hall carol concert(s) with Black Dyke Band. SICS.
- Sunday 19 March 2023 (Mahler Symphony No. 2 City Hall with Hallam Choral Society, Hallam Sinfonia and Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor George Morton, forming the finale of Classical Sheffield's 10th anniversary Festival Weekend.
- Re-scheduled Verdi *Requiem* at City Hall, sometime in 2022-23. SICS.
- re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 8 at Bridgewater Hall possibly May/June 2023

#### Under discussion

- Rutter *Gloria* - Black Dyke Band keen to do this with us sometime

### **Reminder – please pay your subs**

Thank you to those who have already paid their annual subscription fee of £144 (reduced rate £39). Fees are due from everyone please, as soon as you can.

Everyone needs to complete the Subscription Form, which has been placed online for the first time, at <https://forms.office.com/r/K3C5YRe1DR>. Please use the online form if you can; it automates the record-keeping and it's easy to complete. The bank details etc are at the bottom of the form.

Please complete the form using your full names as recognised by HMRC, otherwise Gift Aid collection will be problematic. It really helps if you can enable Gift Aid, in which case please remember to complete the Gift Aid section on the form.

Fees paid by cheque or bank transfer will be payable to the HSBC account; bank details are at the bottom of the online form. Both the HSBC and Coop bank accounts will have the same account name so cheques made out to Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus will fine (don't forget to put your Chorus number on the back of the cheque).

Those who have a continuing monthly Standing Order (i.e. pay 12 times per year) could just amend the monthly amount to the HSBC account for now. However, at some stage they will have to cancel it and set up a new Standing Order to pay to the new Coop bank account, once this is up and running. Alternatively those paying by Standing Order could opt to wait a few weeks until the Coop Bank account becomes available, to save themselves having to cancel one Standing Order in order to set up another.

If anyone has difficulty paying for any reason, then please contact Finance Officer Jane Parkin; her phone number and email address are at the bottom of the subscription form; her email is at the bottom of every weekly update.

Membership cards will be given to members who have completed forms and paid or arranged Standing Order payments. They will need to be printed first, so please bear with us as it's not the easiest of operations. Your old card will still work for signing-in purposes.

### **Reminder - Christmas shopping with #easyfundraising**

If you're doing any Christmas shopping online, make sure you use *#easyfundraising*. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate, so you can raise a FREE donation for Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus every time you shop online. These donations really mount up, [so please sign up to support us](#)

### **What's On**

See Classical Sheffield's What's On page <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events>

For up-coming Come and Sing opportunities in our region, see [Members Area / For information / Singing Opportunities](#)

### **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 or read it on the website at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#). The user name is the word *member* and the password is *dariu5*; please don't share these.

The Members Area lists 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.

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) or [AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org)

**Membership Officer Marianne Grayson** [MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org)

**Finance Officer JaneParkin** [JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org) or [accounts@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:accounts@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/>