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Weekly Update Tuesday 21 December 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Covid alerts update

Thank you to everyone for your calm and measured responses to the alerts Marianne has recently sent, to those who let us know quickly about their positive tests, and to Marianne herself for being on the ball with this.

There's no doubt that the virus is spreading very rapidly at the moment, so it's not surprising that a few members are reporting that they have become infected. Thank fully, members who were sitting close to them have so far returned negative tests, and it may well be that the virus was picked up before the concert rather than at it. Thank goodness we are all double jabbed and most have had boosters, and that we took the precautions we did on Saturday.

Thankfully, since those early alerts we haven't heard of any other positive cases from Chorus members. We've decided to remind everyone of the current advice, enabling members to decide their best course of action, according to their proximity to people in the past week or so and their vaccination and general health status.

- If you get a positive lateral flow test or develop symptoms, you must get a PCR test as soon as you can, and isolate for 10 days if that is also positive. The people you live with should take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days, but don't need to isolate unless their test results are positive or they develop symptoms.
- If you have been close to someone who has tested positive, take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days. However there's no need to self isolate unless your test results are positive or you develop symptoms.
- For more detail about this, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Christmas concert feedback

Grateful thanks to everyone for being so patient and flexible on Saturday – it was so great to see everyone just getting on with it no matter what. The City Hall had made over 90 people redundant following the furlough scheme, so everyone is new and hasn't set up for our concerts before - there are just a few senior managers left plus Jack the Stage Manager, who is super and was so helpful on Saturday. When we arrived at 10.15am, hardly anything we had asked for was in place and we had to sort as the day progressed. So thank you very much for your intelligent and good humoured response!

Thanks to Jim for sorting us all on stage, Helen Kirk for Petroc's flowers, Sue Pennington for the book of local carols we gave him, and Janet Bower for donating one of her wonderful cakes, which he's enjoying very much (see below). Thanks to Ann Garbett and her helpers for making the stage look wonderful with Ann's gorgeous decorations – all of which she made herself! Most

of all, special thanks to Darius for preparing us so well, and to Rachel and Maggie for their support. It all went really well!

There were a number of Chorus members in the audience, and they reported that we sounded marvellous – confident and strong, which is great to hear. Andrea Stafford from the Halle loved it, as did Nigel Gyte. Here is some feedback:

- *'I very much enjoyed the Christmas concert this evening'* (Chorus member by email)
- *'Just to let you know that following the frustrations of PCR testing and being unable to take part in the performance yesterday, I now feel more than compensated. I really enjoyed the afternoon and congratulate the choir on 'pulling out all the stops' to produce a wonderful and emotional contribution to the festive season'* (Chorus member by email)
- *'I would like to say that the concert Saturday afternoon at City Hall was fantastic, from the band to the choir lead by the maestro brilliant. I would like to enquire of the possibility of joining your choir?'* (Audience member by email)
- *'It was a brilliant afternoon. Thrilled with my cake. Happy Christmas when we get there.'* (Petroc Trelawny, Twitter).
- *'What a fantastic turnout this afternoon in the company of @SheffPhilChorus and @PetrocTrelawny! A wonderfully festive concert to lift spirits in the run up to Christmas!'* (Black Dyke Band, Twitter)
- *'What a fantastic concert!! Absolutely loved it. Thankyou @blackdyke @SheffPhilChorus'* (Audience member, Twitter)
- *'Thank you @blackdyke @SheffPhilChorus @DariusBat for great Christmas Concert today at City Hall, and to entertaining host @PetrocTrelawny for adding to my and my daughter @FuGeYang's enjoyment. @tom_mckinney'* (Audience member, Twitter)
- *'As you say the concert was amazing, I'm sure it was as healthy an activity for the audience as it was for all of us on stage, our mental wellbeing is just as important as our physical health. To all in the chorus, have a wonderful Christmas and stay safe, looking forward to 'Messiah' in April! Regards'* (John O'Brien Secretary Black Dyke Band, email)
- *'I had such a good time with the Chorus on Saturday. It felt something of a miracle that the concert was able to take place. The cake is delicious I and various friends have been making steady damage to it..... Warm wishes in these strange times, Petroc'* (Petroc Trelawny by email)

One choir member's Mum said it was the best Christmas concert she's been too, and other friends in the audience were full of high praise.

From a choir member: Everyone was moved by the trumpet solo *Away in A Manger* and the words of *Have yourself a merry little Christmas* ("once again we all be together, if the fates allow; until then we'll have to muddle through somehow...."). I think it meant so much to the audience as well as us on stage to be there together again in City Hall, listening or performing. It was a truly very special occasion....

Messages from our Vocal Coach Maggie and our President Rachel Copley

'Please ... wish the choir all the very best for tonight's concert, and a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year from me. Many thanks. Merry Christmas, Maggie'

'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'

Next rehearsal Tuesday 4 January 2022 at King Edward's Upper School

Our next rehearsal will be on Tue 4 January 2022, at King Edwards Upper School at 7pm. We'll be rehearsing the Faure in preparation for the concert on Saturday 15 January 2022. Do have a look at the work over the Christmas break if you think you may be a bit rusty by the new year, as there won't be time to go over any notes! Here are links that folk might find useful:

- [Link to Faure *Requiem* score](#)
- [Faure *Requiem* Rehearsal Notes](#)
- [YouTube recording of Faure *Requiem*](#)
- [Cyberbass rehearsal tracks of Faure *Requiem*](#)
- [Choral Line rehearsal tracks of Faure *Requiem*](#) (need to pay)
- [Chord Perfect rehearsal tracks of Faure *Requiem*](#)
- [Choralia rehearsal tracks of Faure *Requiem*](#)
- [John's midi files of Faure *Requiem*](#)

These links have been on the Chorus website for a good while, as has the rehearsal schedule and future diary dates, which now include compulsory rehearsals. See [Members Area / Rehearsals](#). - user name and password are at the bottom of every update.

Invitation to stand as a Trustee of Classical Sheffield

The fifth Classical Sheffield AGM will be held online on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 18:00. We could do with a representative of the Chorus to attend the AGM, as Anne Adams is a Trustee so won't count as our rep even though she'll be there. Please let Anne know if you can attend on our behalf, and complete the on-line form at <https://forms.gle/zJhAfcMzNxJD1tkv9>
The formal notice, link and papers will be shared in the new year.

There are three vacancies on the Board of Trustees. If you'd like to stand, please contact Anne Adams for further details and how to apply.

What's On

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

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 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.

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 or AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

Membership Officer Marianne Grayson MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org

Finance Officer JaneParkin JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org or accounts@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/>