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SPC: Arrangements and seating plan for concert on Sat 15 Jan (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Arrangements for the concert on Saturday 15 January 2022 (attachment)

The concert is on Saturday 15 January 2022 at 7pm in the City Hall, and there's a compulsory pre-concert conductor's rehearsal on Saturday from 14.30 to 16.00 in the City Hall. Your place at the rehearsal on the day will be your place at the concert.

Here are some website and social media links to use when promoting the concert amongst family and friends:

- [City Hall website with booking link](#)
- [City Hall FB event](#)
- [SPC Facebook event](#)
- SPC Twitter feed is @SheffPhilChorus. There's a pinned tweet you can copy, and plenty of others to like and re-tweet – thanks fellow tweeters!

On the day you will be able to get into the City Hall from around 13.00, via the right-hand door of the main entrance on Barker's Pool. The City Hall staff have asked that we make sure we only use the main entrance, and this right-hand door, whenever entering and leaving the building. Once inside:

- Sign in and collect a wrist band at the desk by the right-hand door in the main entrance foyer.
- Sign in by ticking against your Chorus number on the tick sheets (one per voice part).
- As quickly as you can (to avoid congestion) move out of the foyer into the corridors that surround the Oval Hall.
- Proceed up the stairs to the circle floor, turning left if you are going to the Vincent Harris room (ladies) and right if heading for the Barbirolli room (gentlemen); see below.
- Walk to the end of the corridor and through the double doors into the back stage area.
- You will emerge on the corridor outside the VH room (left) and B room (right), where you may leave your outdoor coats and bags.
- From there, proceed further along the corridor and down the backstage make your way to the stage left and right entrances.
- If you leave the building at any time, you must sign out (and of course back in again) again at the same desk, which will be left in place until 6.30pm - though everyone should aim to be back by 6.15 at the latest.

There is a lift up to the circle for those who need it.

We will use a similar seating plan (attached) as was used at the Christmas concert, ie, using the organ stalls as well as the choir risers, so we can spread out as much as we can. Please study the attached plan carefully as the distribution of voice parts is different than is usual. We know the organ seats are very comfortable, but please move down if asked, as gaps in either area look messy and unprofessional to the audience, and aren't the best idea from a musical point of view either, especially when we're already well spaced.

Wherever you're coming from or going to, try to take the most direct route onto the stage, even if this takes you onto the wrong side of the stage. It's better to cross in front of the organ, if that's quicker and more direct than the backstage route along stairs and corridors.

Please be in your place for the rehearsal by 14.20 and gather in your seats quietly, as there may be a rehearsal going on before 14.30. The orchestra are likely to continue rehearsing after we leave at 16.00, so again, please leave the stage quickly and quietly.

Unfortunately there is an event in the ballroom so we can't have the basement dressing rooms, and will be allocated the Vincent Harris room (ladies) and the Barbirolli room (gents). These are small and cramped even without the need for social distancing, so it would be a big help for as many members as possible to arrive already in concert dress, at least partly. You can leave your bags in the dressing rooms but don't leave valuables as the rooms won't be locked.

The City Hall staff have said we can use the balcony side areas (both balcony seats and adjacent corridors) to spend waiting time and to eat and drink if not going out for lunch and the dressing rooms areas are a bit crowded. Please leave these spaces as we find them.

Members with mobility issues will be able to use Dressing Room 1 – though the route to get there is longer than usual since we won't be using the stage door.

The first half starts with Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*, and then we have the super treat of hearing Darius play the Poulenc *Organ Concerto* with the Camerata being conducted by Rebecca Long. Remember that we'll be on show throughout the first half – and we mustn't distract the performers - so please keep as still as you can, and engage with the concert. Face coverings will need to be worn throughout – unless you're exempt of course.

We sang out very well at the Christmas concert, and it will be the same for the Faure: every chorus member will need to project with confidence and energy, given the City Hall's very dry acoustic and the fact that we will be more spread out than usual. It sounded wonderful on Tuesday, so be confident and sing out! Below are the links to recordings and guide tracks, which may help people put in some extra last-minute practice - though on Tuesday it didn't sound like anyone needs this, which is fantastic!

- [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](#)

We will enter the stage as we did for the Christmas concert, ie, without lining up. Just take your places informally and gradually, to minimise crowding on the stairs. If you're happy with the long wait you can start to take your on-stage seat any time after 6.15pm, **but please be in your seat by 6.50 at the latest.**

There will be a short interval, but there's only time for a quick 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. You might prefer to gather outside the stage door if the weather is reasonable – outside is the safest place to be at the moment - though not the warmest! You can stay in your on-stage seat if you prefer – just make sure others in your row can enter and leave easily.

Music should be in black folders. Don't take folders on until the second half, as we are members of the audience for the first half. Please be careful not to turn pages over at the end of a movement; stay engaged and looking at the conductor until the next one starts. Turn the page early if we have a rapid entry, and quietly at all times.

We are in full concert dress, so please check that you have appropriate gear, especially if you are new – it would be a tragedy if you were unable to sing on the day! Back to black bow ties for gentlemen remember – and ladies take particular care about shoes, tights/socks and lace etc - ie there shouldn't be any - lace etc that is! See [Members Area / Arrangements for concerts / stage procedure and dress code](#) for details.

Please check the same section of the website for our stage procedure, though we won't be filing on (see above). Stand when the conductor walks onto the stage (except in the first half as we are audience then). Don't clap soloists or conductors until they come back on for their second bow. We can clap the performers during the first half of course.

Covid precautions and general health and safety

- Do not attend the concert if you have symptoms of Covid, flu or a cold, or have been exposed to a person infected with Covid
- Do not attend unless you have had two vaccinations AND a recent negative lateral flow or PCR test
- Please sign in at the desks in the front entrance foyer, sign out again if you leave the building, and back in on your return. You'll just need a tick against your chorus number – so no need for membership cards.
- Please take and attach a wrist band, if these are available at the signing-in desks.
- Please wear face coverings at all times in the building, until just before we sing (unless you're exempt of course)
- Stay distanced as much as you can, especially in smaller spaces
- Try not to chat when you're in a small space
- Bring your own drinks and don't share them
- Please let us know if you test positive for Covid after the concert, and say who sat beside and in front of you if you can
- Come in concert dress if you can 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.

Remember that if you get a positive 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>

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/>