

Contents: Next rehearsal Tuesday 18 January 2022;

Covid precautions – please check carefully;

Faure concert feedback;

Return music please;

Invitation for all voice parts to sing Bach's *St Matthew Passion*;

Message from Heather Clarke;

Diary dates (now include compulsory rehearsal dates);

Reminders: please pay subs, Classical Sheffield AGM;

What's On in the next two weeks;

Tell us if your contact details change; Web links and passwords; Contact emails

Weekly Update Sunday 16 January 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Tuesday 18 January 2022 at King Edward's Upper School

Our next rehearsal will be on Tue 11 January 2022, at King Edwards Upper School at 7pm. We will be rehearsing the Rachmaninov, and will be doing this for the next eight weeks, with some Messiah as well in later weeks – check the rehearsal schedule for details (see below).

There may be up to 15 new members at the rehearsal on Tuesday, which is fantastic news! Please be as helpful as you usually are in showing them the way, inviting them to sit by you, etc. Our New Members Officer Sally Turnbull may be looking for people to act as buddies, so please be ready to respond if asked.

The advice for choirs is still the same, so we will continue singing live, while following the Covid precautions even more carefully – see the list below. **The most important measure is to stay away if you have any Covid, flu or cold-like symptoms or if you live with someone who has Covid.** Do also feel free to stay away if you feel nervous about attending – this is really understandable, and every member needs to make up their own minds about the extent to which they are prepared to balance the benefits and the risks involved.

Drivers please enter via the gates from Glossop Road only; 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, to the right of the vehicle gates (Glossop Road) or to the left (Newbould Lane). These are permanently unlocked and will open given a good strong push. Many thanks for your usual cheerful co-operation!

The up-to-date rehearsal schedule is at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>; this link is also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) along with travel and access details, and links to useful learning and rehearsal resources - user name and password are at the bottom of every update.

Covid precautions

- Do not attend 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 wear face coverings at all times in the building, until just before we sing (unless you're exempt of course)

- Use sanitiser if it's available, and don't share music or pencils
- Stay distanced as much as you can, especially in corridors and in the foyer
- Whether upstairs (ladies) or downstairs (gents) please spread out as far as you can
- Please check that nearby windows and doors are open, and if not, open them as wide as possible (and closing them at the end would be a great help, thank you)
- Try not to chat inside – instead share your greetings and news outside, 2m apart
- Bring your own drinks and don't share them
- Please let us know if you test positive for Covid after the rehearsal; we will continue to use photographs to identify and alert anyone seated close by

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>

Feedback from the Faure concert – and lost property

The concert was wonderful and the audience extremely appreciative. Andrea Stafford from the Halle said we sounded as good as she's ever heard us, and Trisha Cooper was equally impressed. Both soloists were impressed with the quality of the singing; soprano soloist Caroline Taylor thought our singing sounded like a recording, it was so together and accurate – and beautiful too.

- *'Thank you for a magical evening in Sheffield and congratulations again to all the Chorus for their fabulous performance. I hope you all have a fantastic rest of the year - and here's to working together again soon! Very best wishes, Caroline'* Caroline Taylor, soprano soloist
- *'A great concert...Excellent intonation throughout from the Choir I thought.'* Dr Simon Lindley

Thank you to everyone for making everything go so smoothly despite the limitations, the different entry point and seating, and the small number of hiccoughs. Apologies to those who were asked for Covid passports by security, or who were questioned closely following a random bag check. This was due to miscommunication between the City Hall and staff from its out-sourced security firm; our wrist bands should have exempted us from Covid passport checks.

Jane Woodin was the last to leave the ladies dressing room, and took home with her two left-behind items - a flowery bag containing two books and a scarf, and a pair of black boots. Thank you Jane for being so vigilant and so conscientious! Please see Jane on Tuesday if these are your items.

Please return music!

Please return your Faure score if it was a hired one, with all markings rubbed out please, otherwise it makes a lot of work for our hard-working volunteer Librarians!

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Christmas music, the Librarians are very grateful. Please bring it this week if you forgot - including any proper copies of *The Holly and the Ivy* you may still have from last year. Please make sure you return the copies in the plastic folder in which they came (or a replacement if you've lost it) and rub out your markings.

If you are going to be absent eg through illness, please make arrangements to return your music via a friend, or contact the Librarians using the contact details at the bottom of every email update. Many thanks.

Invitation to sing Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with Sheffield Bach Choir – all voice parts

Singers from all voice parts are invited to join the Sheffield Bach Choir to sing Bach's *St Matthew Passion* (in English) on Saturday 5 March at 6.30pm in Sheffield Cathedral. Rehearsals and the performance will be conducted by Professor George Nicholson, and will use the Elgar/Atkins Novello edition. There will be a few spare copies available for loan if needed. Rehearsals will be at Cemetery Road Baptist Church on Mondays 7.30 - 9.00pm. Parking is available in Waitrose car park. Rehearsals started on 10th January, but from this Monday 17th onwards will be fine for guest singers. However, the choir would like guests to attend as many rehearsals as possible, including the one on the afternoon of the performance.

If gents are interested in singing, please contact Nigel Wright at wrightnigel@yahoo.com, stating your voice part or chorus number. Ladies please contact Anne Adams stating the same information; AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

Message from Heather Clarke

One-time member Heather Clarke recently got in touch and left her address with soprano Rachel Mallaband, in case any members remember her and would like to get in touch.

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 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; you must complete the Subscription Form, which is online at <https://forms.office.com/r/K3C5YRe1DR>. Please use the online form if you can; it automates the record-keeping and is easy to complete. The bank details etc are at the bottom of the form. Please use 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 - Classical Sheffield AGM

The fifth Classical Sheffield AGM will be held online on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 18:00. Marianne Grayson will represent the Chorus at the AGM; thank you Marianne! Other members are welcome to attend as well, but please note that Marianne will cast the SPC votes; you will need to complete the on-line form at <https://forms.gle/zJhAfcMzNxJD1tkv9>.

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 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

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

Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson alananderson@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/>