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Weekly Update Sunday 23 January 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Tuesday 25 January 2022 at King Edward's Upper School

Our next rehearsal will be on Tue 25 January 2022, at King Edwards Upper School at 7pm. We will be rehearsing the Rachmaninov, and will be doing this for the next seven weeks, with some Messiah as well in later weeks – check the rehearsal schedule for details (see below).

There will be new members at the rehearsal on Tuesday, so 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.

Despite changes heralded by the Government, we will continue to take precautions to avoid spreading the Omicron variant – see the 'Covid precautions' 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 still feel nervous about attending – 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>

Rehearsal resources for Rachmaninov

A set of resources has been on the Chorus website for many months, at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#). They will be listed in the weekly update for a few weeks so that new members can access them.

Rehearsal tracks and recordings:

- [1965 recording, USSR State Choir conducted by Sveshnikov](#)
- [Live performance of Rachmaninov on YouTube](#)
- [Gorgeous version by a Polish ensemble](#) (very clear)
- [Recording of Vespers from USSR](#)
- [Cyberbass tracks – Rachmaninov Vespers](#) by separate voice part; free
- [Choral line tracks – Rachmaninov Vespers](#) by separate voice part - charged
- [Free downloadable midifiles for Rachmaninov Vespers](#) by separate voice part

Russian pronunciation - doesn't cover every movement but may be helpful:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_65C_Xx3gE
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MI1nMduOTeE>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fBo0rGYk_4

More feedback from the Faure concert – and more lost property!

Alto Rachel Rowlands found a little silver chain on the floor just by the organ at the end of the concert. It has a little silver 'charm' with a cross on it. Please let Rachel know if this is yours; if not claimed she will take it to the City Hall.

More feedback about the concert:

- *'Thanks so much to [@SheffPhilChorus](#) & [@SheffCityHall](#) for a beautiful Saturday eve. A delight to play with [@DariusBat](#) & Rebecca Tong We hope to see you all again very soon!'* (Tweet from Manchester Camerata)
- *'It was a pleasure to perform with you - and huge congratulations again on the outstanding, moving sound you all made. It was a very special evening. Thanks too to the wonderful audience who came along!'* (Tweet from soprano soloist Caroline Taylor)
- *'I've heard wonderful comments from people from Manchester and Sheffield about the concert last Saturday. So proud of you all! Best wishes'* (email from Vocal Coach Maggie)

Please help the Librarians by returning Christmas music and the Faure asap!

All but 20 people have returned their Christmas music, thank you so much. Alto Anne Burleigh is wanting to get it off her dining table, so please can the 20 who haven't returned their music do so as soon as possible?

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!

If you are currently absent, 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.

Please pay your subs

About a third of the Chorus has paid the annual subscription fee – many thanks everyone. Please can those who haven't, pay the £144 (reduced rate £39) 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 are now available from Finance Officer alto Jane Parkin at rehearsal.

Please help - sopranos, tenors and basses needed to sing Bach's *St Matthew Passion*

Sheffield Bach Choir is keen to recruit a few sopranos, tenors and basses to sing Bach's *St Matthew Passion* (in English) on Saturday 5 March at 6.30pm in Sheffield Cathedral. Rehearsals and performance will be conducted by Professor George Nicholson, and will use the

Elgar/Atkins Novello edition; copies available for loan if needed. Rehearsals have started, at Cemetery Road Baptist Church on Mondays 7.30 - 9.00pm, so just join on Monday; parking is available in Waitrose car park. The choir would like guests to attend as many rehearsals as possible, including the one on the afternoon of the performance.

Just turn up on Monday if you'd like to sing, but gents contact Nigel Wright at wrightnigel@yahoo.com, and ladies contact Anne Adams AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

Message from Heather Clarke widow of Peter Clarke

Heather Clarke, widow of long-standing member Peter 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.

Choral Bangers concert Saturday 5 February (attachment)

A number of our members are involved in Philip Collin's 'Choral Bangers' concert in St John's Church Ranmoor on Saturday 5 February 2022 at 7.30pm. See the attached for further details.

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

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 *darius5*; 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/>