

Contents: Next rehearsal Tuesday 11 January 2022;

Covid precautions – please check carefully;

Singing list for the Faure concert – please check (attachment);

Arrangements for Saturday's Faure concert;

Request from Librarians re Christmas music and *Belshazzar's Feast* scores;

Organ recitals at St John's Ranmoor (attachment);

Glasses case left at Ripon cathedral on Saturday;

Diary dates (now include compulsory rehearsal dates);

Reminders: please pay subs, Classical Sheffield AGM, sing Jenkins' *Requiem*;

What's On in the next two weeks;

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

Weekly Update Sunday 09 January 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Tuesday 11 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.

This is the compulsory piano rehearsal for the concert on Saturday 15 January, so please don't attend if you're not singing in the concert (or if you do come, please don't sing).

Despite rising Covid numbers, the advice for choirs remains the same. However, we need to ensure we follow the 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>

Singing list for the Faure concert – please check (attachment)

If you have been attending rehearsals for the Fauré Requiem, but are not singing in the concert on 15th Jan, please could you send your apologies to MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org **as soon as possible?** The singing list is attached; this has been sent to the City Hall to be printed in the concert programme, and to enable City Hall and Rehearsals and Events Officer Jim Monach to plan the seating. Please have a look and let Marianne know if you appear on it but are not intending to sing in the concert.

If you are unsure whether you have attended enough rehearsals to be eligible to sing, please check with your Voice Rep.

Arrangements for the concert on Saturday 15 January 2022

The concert is on Saturday 15 January 2022 at 7pm in the City Hall. Tuesday's rehearsal is the compulsory piano rehearsal, and there's a compulsory pre-concert conductor's rehearsal on Saturday 15 January 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.

We will probably use a similar seating plan 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 gather for the rehearsal 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. The seating plan will be circulated after Tuesday's rehearsal, when we are more certain of numbers and last-minute apologies. To that end, please check the singing list attached (see above).

We are still negotiating the final arrangements for Saturday's concert with the City Hall, so be prepared for any changes – we will let you know via the email which circulates the seating plan, after Tuesday's rehearsal.

Remember that we aren't singing in the first half, so we will form part of the audience from the very visible choir seats. This means 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! Here are the links to recordings and guide tracks, which may help people put in some extra last-minute practice:

- [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](#)

On the day you will be able to get into the City Hall from around 13.00, either via the Stage Door round the back as usual, or via the main entrance. Whichever way we enter, please make sure you sign in, and take a wrist band if they are supplied. Further details about where to get in and sign in will be supplied with the seating plan after Tuesday's rehearsal.

Please be in your place for 14.20.

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. 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.

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. Those bringing a packed lunch can eat in the dressing rooms or adjacent corridors, but please leave these spaces as we find them. We are hoping that members with mobility issues will be able to use Dressing Room 1 – this will be confirmed next week.

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. 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!

Please note that everyone should wear a face covering at all times while in the City Hall, keeping them on until we start to sing. The audience are likely to be required to wear face coverings, so we should too.

Please return music, and request re *Belshazzar's Feast*

Thank you to the almost 100 members who returned their Christmas music on Tuesday, 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.

Alan and Rosemary would like to know who has their own copy of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, so they know how many to hire for our final concert of the year on 11 June 2022. If you have a copy please let them know at alananderson@sheffieldphil.org . Many thanks.

Organ recitals at St John's Ranmoor (attachment)

Philip Colin, who has led our rehearsals when Darius has been absent, is now in charge of music at St John's Ranmoor, and commends the upcoming series of organ recitals to us (see attached flyer). You may also be interested to hear that Philip is now the MD at Halifax Choral Society, following John Pryce-Jones' retirement.

Glasses case left at Ripon cathedral on Saturday

If you left your glasses case at Ripon cathedral on Saturday, Angela Wren has it.

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 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; 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>.

Reminder - invitation to sing Jenkins' *Requiem* and Mozart's *Requiem*

Bakewell Choral Society invites members to join them in rehearsals for Karl Jenkins' *Requiem*; see www.bakewellchoral.co.uk for details. Sheffield Oratorio Chorus invites members to sing Mozart's *Requiem* with them; details at <http://sheffieldoratorio.com>

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 Jane Parkin 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/>