

Contents: Next rehearsal Tue 27 Feb 2022 (and notice of change of day the following week)

Covid precautions – please check carefully;

Please buy tickets for Rachmaninov concert - 74 tickets sold so far (e-flyer attached)

Rachmaninov concert arrangements, collection for Ukraine

Messiah costs and requests for sponsorship suggestions

Messiah tickets available

Further plea to Facebook users

Diary dates (now include compulsory rehearsal dates);

Reminders: new bank account is open - amend SOs – or pay if you haven't already; Rachel Copley's choir – request for volunteers

What's On in the next two weeks – and concert in Salford;

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

Weekly Update Sunday 27 February 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Tuesday 01 March 2022 at King Edward's Upper School, Sheffield

Our next rehearsal will be on Tue 01 March 2022, at King Edward's Upper School, Sheffield, at 7pm. We will be rehearsing the Rachmaninov, a change from the published rehearsal schedule.

As announced by Darius last Tuesday, there won't be a rehearsal on Tuesday 8 March; instead, the conductor's piano rehearsal will be on Friday 11th March at St Mark's Church, Broomhill.

Please note that Darius would prefer people not singing in the concert to stay away from that rehearsal – or to not sing if they do attend. Please tell Marianne Grayson if you are singing in the concert but can't attend the rehearsal on Friday 11th March.

The rehearsal schedule is at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>; also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) along with travel and access details. There are links to useful learning and rehearsal resources, including for Rachmaninov, Messiah and the Walton, plus advice for preparing at home and looking after your voice; see [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#). User name and password at bottom of each 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, or if you haven't had two vaccinations
- Please wear face coverings at all times, until just before we sing, unless you're exempt
- Stay distanced as much as you can, including when singing
- Bring your own drinks and don't share them
- Please let us know if you get Covid; we will continue to alert anyone seated close by

Though it's no longer mandatory, it's advisable to isolate if you test positive for Covid or develop symptoms. You can stop isolating when you get two negative lateral flow tests taken on consecutive days, no earlier than the 5th and 6th day after isolating. Anyone who has been close to someone who has tested positive should take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days - no need to self isolate unless test results are positive or symptoms develop. For more detail, see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Buy tickets for Rachmaninov; sales to date: 33 online + 41 at rehearsal = 74 (attachment)

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the Rachmaninov last week; tickets will be on sale again this week. With only two weeks to go, tickets sales are still very disappointing at 74, with walk-up sales unlikely to exceed 50. We are still hoping to sell all 250 tickets in order to cover the costs of the church hire, and fees for Charlotte Badham, Stewart Campbell, Darius and Rachel – and the £887 it cost to purchase copies of the score for those whose incomes had been hit by the pandemic so were unable to buy their own. So please do what you can to get your family and friends to come. Just two tickets per Chorus member would be a sell-out!

Tickets will be on sale at rehearsal, £15 (no booking fee obviously); please try to bring the correct change! Tickets are also available at <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/537298>. There's a button to this online ticket store on our website at [Concerts / Current Season](#). Any tickets left following rehearsal and online sales will be available on the door.

Please share the attached e-flyer and the link to our website or to the online ticket store (see above), eg via email to friends and family or on social media - we don't have a mailing list and people will only come if they hear about it! Here's a link to our [Facebook event page](#) for those who use Facebook – please like and share widely! There are posts on Instagram, and a pinned tweet (see @SheffPhilChorus) with further tweets virtually every day – please follow us and retweet when you see them!

Rachmaninov concert arrangements, collection for Ukraine

Arrangements for the Rachmaninov concert have been updated on the website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#). They will be copied into the next weekly update, but many details are already there, for those who like to plan ahead!

Please note that Darius will be introducing the work, with reference to the current conflict in Ukraine and the choir's visit to Donetsk some years ago. There will also be a collection for a suitable charity at the end of the concert.

Messiah costs and request for sponsor ideas

We are seeking a sponsor for the Messiah concert, to help us cover the costs and to reduce the predicted loss. The band, soloists and conductor will cost £7,600 and the City Hall around £10,000. We would need to sell over 1,000 tickets to cover that, which is most unlikely to happen - we sold 805 for the 75th anniversary concert in 2016, 348 for *Messiah* in Victoria Hall in 2017 and 364 for *Holy Face* in 2019. Given the dwindling audiences for classical concerts at the City Hall, even for SICS concerts (and our *Messiah* isn't part of that programme), we are estimating ticket sales of £7,600 (422 full-price tickets) giving a loss of £10,000 for the *Messiah* concert overall. Chorus funds can cover this but it will make a substantial dint in our reserves.

You can see that a sponsor or sponsors would be a big help! We have investigated seeking funding from trusts and foundation, but they rarely, if ever, donate for concerts. If anyone has any ideas who we might approach with a view to sponsoring the concert, please contact any member of the committee.

It's worth pointing out that if every member of the Chorus could get two adults to come to the concert, we would have over 300 assured sales – which would be a big help. Some members sell many tickets, which is superb, but there are few like this - it's EVERY member selling a couple of tickets that has real impact. Many thanks.

Messiah tickets now available

Tickets are now available for our *Messiah* concert in the City Hall via their website at <https://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk/event/messiah-23April2022> We are negotiating the release of

100 tickets for sale via rehearsals; details in a future update. However we can't specify which seats will be released in this way and the City Hall is likely to keep the best seats for sale via Ticketmaster, so if this matters you should book via the online link, or in person at the City Hall.

Further plea to Facebook users

Last week we asked those who use Facebook to ask friends and family to like our official page; there were a few extra likes, so thank you to those who responded. It would be good to have more, so please share the link: <https://www.facebook.com/SheffieldPhilChorus> This would increase the number of followers and get the adverts which we are posting there out to a much wider audience. Grateful thanks.

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

- An After Hours concert in the City Hall ballroom, probably in November 2022. SICS
- Saturday in December 2022: City Hall carol concert(s) with Black Dyke Band. SICS
- Manchester Camerata concert (something short) City Hall probably February 2023 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. Self-funded
- Re-scheduled Verdi *Requiem* at City Hall, probably mid-June 2023. SICS
- re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 8 at Bridgewater Hall possibly June 2023

Under discussion

- Rutter *Gloria* - Black Dyke Band keen to do this with us sometime

Reminder - Co-op bank account open – please amend SOs - or pay if you haven't yet!

After a long and protracted wait, our bank account with the Co-operative Bank has finally come through. Many thanks to Graham for pursuing this so doggedly on our behalf – Graham you're a star! Those members who pay by standing order (SO) should now please cancel the SO to the HSBC account and set a new SO up so that the payments go into the new account. The bank details are:

- The Co-operative Bank
- Sort code: 08-92-99
- Account: 67238734
- Account name: THE SHEFFIELD PHILHARMONIC CHORUS

Most members have now paid their subs – thank you. Please can those who haven't, pay the £144 (reduced rate £39) as soon as you can? Our rules state that subs should be paid within three months of the AGM at the latest – that's by mid February folks! Please complete the Subs Form at <https://forms.office.com/r/K3C5YRe1DR> - PLEASE USE THE NEW BANK DETAILS LISTED ABOVE. Fees can be paid by cheque (Chorus number on the back please) or bank transfer to the new account (details above). 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.

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.

Reminder - Rachel Copley's choir – request for volunteers please!

Our President, Rachel Copley, is asking for volunteers to help out her choir, Rotherham Choral Society, which is putting on a concert on Saturday, April 9th at Herringthorpe United Reformed Church, Wickersley, Rotherham, S60 4JN. The concert will start at 7pm, with a full rehearsal in the afternoon, starting at 2pm. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, in the same church, from 7 15pm. to 8 45pm; there's no minimum requirement, Rachel is happy to accept whatever help folk can offer. Scores are available to hire; Bach's Magnificat in D (Barenreiter) £2.50 and Olivet to Calvary by J. H. Maunder (£1.50). There's a car park at the church; just pull in off the road.

If you can help Rachel out in this way, please contact her at rachelcopley@sky.com

What's On

See Classical Sheffield's What's On page for concerts around Sheffield in the next two weeks: <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/>