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Weekly Update Sunday 13 March 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Tuesday 15 March 2022 at KES

Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 15 March 2022, at KES at 7pm. Please can those who borrowed Rachmaninov scores, bring them back with all your markings rubbed out so the Librarians don't have to do it. We will be rehearsing *Messiah* and then Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, so please bring your own copy of *Messiah*. The Walton will be available to hire for £3 (correct change please); please come a bit early so we can start on time despite the big hand-out. Resources to help members learn the Walton are already on the Chorus website (see next paragraph).

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 *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 at rehearsals

One of our members who sang on Saturday has tested positive for Covid; those who were close to him have been informed. About a dozen members who should have been singing, were unable to do so through testing positive in the last week or so, and it's clear that Covid cases are rising, so please continue to follow the guidelines:

- 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>

Rachmaninov concert – feedback and thanks

Thank you to everyone who came to sing or to listen on Saturday. The concert went extremely well, with tickets around 220 tickets of 250 sold. We received 'Good Luck' messages from Maggie and from Nigel Gyte, as well as from many members who were unable to be there. It was super to see Chorus members there, including Dorothy Plant; all enjoyed it immensely. Here are some comments:

- *'I very much enjoyed the excellent concert yesterday evening - no wonder Margaret was so proud to be a member of the Phil! Thank you very much for looking after me and please pass on my thanks to everyone. I wish you all continuing success. With every good wish, Kim.'* Kim Staniforth, Margaret's widower by email
- *'Such a moving evening, with wonderful sounds from soloists, accompanist and the fantastic SPC, under Darius. The months/ years of hard work on the Rachmaninov really paid off, so thank you for a very special concert.'* President Rachel Copley via Facebook
- *'Stunning performance of Rachmaninov's Vespers from [@SheffPhilChorus](#) tonight. They have performed in Ukraine and Sheffield has connections with Donetsk. An antidote to Putin's savagery.'* Audience member via Twitter
- *'Wonderful Rachmaninov All Night Vespers from our friends [@SheffPhilChorus](#) led by [@DariusBat](#) tonight! You must all be exhausted - it's a huge sing! Super solos from [@CharlotteBadham](#) and [@stew_campbell](#) and great piano playing from [@rachelfright](#). Bravo everyone!'* Sheffield Bach Choir via Twitter
- *'Such a lovely concert!'* audience member via Facebook
- *'It was a wonderful concert. Thanks for prompting us to come'* audience member via Facebook
- *'I thought the choir sang excellently- really lovely sound and well balanced. Well done.'* Bass Dick Williams via Facebook

Message from Chair Paul Henstridge:

'Thank you to everyone who contributed to make Saturday's concert such a great success. We sang to a packed St Mark's and I received many ecstatic compliments from members of the audience afterwards. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Margaret Staniforth, one of our second sopranos for many years. Thank you to Kim Staniforth, Margaret's husband, for generously supporting the concert. As Darius explained at the start, we also wanted to dedicate the concert to the people of Ukraine. To this end, we held a retiring collection for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal and it raised nearly £1800 – a fantastic total and a testimony to the generosity of our audience and members. There will be a bucket at rehearsal on Tuesday for anyone who wasn't at the concert or who didn't take money on Saturday and would like to donate.

Special thanks to our wonderful soloist, Charlotte Badham, who gave a stunning recital of songs by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky in the first half, beautifully accompanied by our own Rachel Fright. In the second half of the concert, she and our friend Stewart Campbell sang the solo parts of the All Night Vigil. Our thanks to both of them for their excellent performances, and thanks to Darius for, as ever, his excellent directing.

Thanks to Marianne Grayson for signing everyone in, Jane Monach and basses John Morgan and Paul Duffield who did front of house duties, to Ron and Jack Adams who joined them to collect for the Ukraine Appeal, Ann Garbett and Anne Adams on the door, Lydia Parker for providing a super tea for the soloists, Jim Monach, Steve Terry and James Oliver for seating

everyone, and for general preparation and tidying up, Amy Howe for the super programme and anyone else who helped in any way.'

Messiah costs and tickets

The concert is likely to cost around £18,000. We would need to sell a reachable but unlikely 1,000 tickets to cover that (805 for 75th anniversary concert 2016, 348 for *Messiah* 2017, 364 for *Holy Face* 2019, 220 for Rachmaninov in 2022). 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 a loss of £10,000 overall.

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, leaving a more realistic 700 to get via online and walk-up sales. 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. So please do what you can to get friends and family to come to the concert.

Grateful thanks to those members who have suggested possible sponsors, and even more so to those who have offered to sponsor the concert themselves; your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Tickets available via City Hall 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.

Messiah party

After the *Messiah* concert we will be having a party in the City Hall ballroom, with a cold buffet and a bar. The Lord Mayor and her consort will be there, along with a good number of other VIPs, and of course all our German and French visitors. All SPC members are invited, along with family and friends. The buffet costs are £15.36 per head and the ballroom hire is £1,200 (reduced from over £3,000). We are predicting a loss of about £10,000 for the concert, so need to try to recoup at least some of the costs of the party, by making it a ticketed event. Tickets will be £15 and will be on sale at rehearsals from 15th March 2022.

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 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
- *Saturday 18 June 2022: memorial celebration for Stella Jockel, Totley Parish Church at 2pm (elective)*

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 – please pay subs!

Please can those who haven't yet paid their subs, do so immediately? The deadline was mid February! If anyone has difficulty paying for any reason, then please speak to Finance Officer Jane Parkin; her email is at the bottom of every weekly update.

Reminder - plea to Facebook users

Facebook users, please share the link: <https://www.facebook.com/SheffieldPhilChorus> Sharing and asking people to like the page would increase the number of followers and get the adverts which we are posting there out to a much wider audience. Grateful thanks.

What's On – La Boheme at the Lyceum

English Touring Opera are bringing Puccini's La Bohème, and Rimsky-Korsakov's The Golden Cockerel, to the Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield on 4th (Puccini) and 5th April (Rimsky-Korsakov).

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 *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

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Administrator Anne

Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org or AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

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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/>