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Weekly Update Sunday 20 March 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Tuesday 22 March 2022 at KES

Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 22 March 2022, at KES at 7pm. If you haven't already, please return any borrowed Rachmaninov scores, with all your markings rubbed out so the Librarians don't have to do it.

We will be rehearsing *Messiah* so please bring your own copy. If you didn't get a Walton last week, it will be available to hire for £3 (correct change please). Resources to help members learn *Messiah* and the Walton are on the Chorus website (see below).

There will be two auditions after the rehearsal on Tuesday, so please leave as quickly and as quietly as you can. It's super that we are still attracting new members – keep spreading the word – especially among potential tenors!

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

Unfortunately around 34 members have tested positive for Covid since the concert on 12th March; those who were seated close have been informed. Most have mild cold symptoms or none at all. It isn't at all clear that members were infected at the concert; some may have been infected a few days earlier and some have only just tested positive, ie today, and are more likely to have picked it up at a later date. What is clear is that (a) Covid cases are rising, (b) face coverings, social distancing and regular widespread rapid testing have all but disappeared, (c) people carry the virus for at least three days before testing positive, and some don't test positive until a week later, and (d) most people have the symptoms of a cold, sometimes heavy and sometime mild. Of course, (a) may well be the result of (b) and (c).

It is perfectly understandable that some members may wish to stay away from rehearsal until the number of cases subsides; **each member should assess the risk and make their own decision about this**, which will of course be respected. We will continue to implement the precautions we have been taking, so please follow the guidelines for rehearsals:

- Do not attend if you have symptoms of Covid, or of flu or a cold (which often turn out to be Covid), 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
- Make sure the windows and doors near you are open, on both floors
- 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, the advice is to isolate following a positive test or development of 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 lateral flow tests, though there is 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>

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 22 March 2022 (this time for real!)

Article about singing

Thanks to bass John Harvey for sharing this interesting article about singing, including an explanation about why we think our singing voices are better than they are.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/mar/20/perfect-harmony-singing-with-others-is-a-joyful-thing-even-in-difficult-times>

Cards from the Chorus

As some of you may have experienced, the Chorus likes to send cards to members who are seriously ill or who are in serious need of a consoling message. However, we don't always hear of situations where a member may appreciate this, so please let Helen Kirk know if you hear of any deserving cases. Helen's contact details are at the bottom of every update; she sends cards but does not share the information.

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: 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 (NB time to be confirmed).
- 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 (NB time to be confirmed)
- *Saturday 18 June 2022: memorial celebration for Stella Jockel, Totleigh 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

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

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/>