

Important: no rehearsal on Tuesday 8 March 2022 (see below)

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Weekly Update Saturday 5 March 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Next rehearsal Friday 11 March 2022 at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield

As stated last week, our next rehearsal will be on Friday 11 March 2022, at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield, at 7pm. This will be the compulsory conductor's rehearsal of the Rachmaninov, so please don't attend if you are not singing in the concert. Please tell Marianne Grayson if you are singing in the concert but can't attend the rehearsal on Friday 11th March.

Please note that if you need to, you can sit for the rehearsals on Friday and Saturday afternoon, to maximise the chances that you'll be able to stand for the whole of the Rachmaninov performance. However, if you do find that you need to sit during the performance, please be assured that you can. **Arrangements for the concert are further down this email.**

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 (we will continue to open all windows):

- Do not attend rehearsals 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 no longer mandatory, it's advisable to isolate if you test positive for Covid or develop symptoms. You can stop when you get two negative lateral flow tests taken on consecutive days, no earlier than the 5th and 6th day after isolating. Advice from the Zoe Covid research group is that there's no need to test every day – they say a test is unlikely to be negative until a week after symptoms develop or a positive test result. For more information see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

Rachmaninov sales to date = 90 (e-flyer attached)

Tickets will be on sale again at the rehearsal in St Mark's on Friday 11 March, price £15 – please try to bring the correct change!

As you can see, combined online and rehearsal sales haven't yet reached 150 which would be one ticket per Chorus member, which is a shame. There is just over a week to go, and 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!

Tickets are still 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 – 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!

Request for volunteers for Front of House duties on Saturday 12 March

We need a few volunteers to show people to available spaces and to hand out concert programmes, which will be free. We also need people to take the retiring collection at the end (see below). If you are willing to do this, please make yourself known on the day; you will need to be in concert dress by 6.30pm. Many thanks.

Rachmaninov concert in the context of the conflict in Ukraine

Following prompts by members of the Chorus, discussions with Darius, Rachel and our soloists, and the example of other choirs and orchestras, the committee agreed that we should signify our solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and hold a collection for the Red Cross at the end of the concert. To this end, the wording on our website, and those of Classical Sheffield and WeGotTickets, has been amended as shown below. The words are taken from a speech given by the CEO of the CBSO at a recent concert; his permission was sought and provided. The same wording will appear in the programme, alongside a tribute to Margaret Staniforth, whose widower Kim made a donation to the Chorus, and who will be our guest at the concert. Kim is in full agreement with the dedication shown below; we hope you agree with this course of action.

'In common with people from around the globe, SPC has been shocked by the news coming out of Ukraine. The hostile invasion of a nation by a neighbouring country has rightly been condemned by people of all nationalities all around the world. Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus would like to join those voices in condemning the Russian invasion. We also feel it is important to emphasise that none of these terrible events is the fault of the Russian people, nor of the many Russian artists who have bravely criticised the actions of their government. And equally, none of it is the fault of Rachmaninov or Tchaikovsky, whose beautiful music we present on 12 March. The international language of music, so important to the identity of Russia and Ukraine,

can perhaps speak more powerfully to us than words. It's in this spirit that we offer this concert as a symbol of our solidarity and friendship with the Ukrainian people. There will be a retiring collection for the Red Cross Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal.'

Rachmaninov concert arrangements (also at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#))

The concert is on Saturday 12 March 2022 at 7pm in St Mark's Church Broomhill. The compulsory conductor's rehearsal has been moved to Friday 11 March in St Mark's Church, so there will be no rehearsal on Tuesday 8 March 2022. There's also a compulsory pre-concert conductor's rehearsal on Saturday from 14.00 to 16.00, also in the Church. If you need to, you can sit for the rehearsals on Friday and Saturday afternoon, to maximise the chances that you'll be able to stand for the whole of the Rachmaninov performance. However, if you do find that you need to sit during the performance, please be assured that you can.

There is very little parking at St Mark's; please only use their car park if you have a Blue Badge (soloists etc have reserved spaces). However, KES have kindly offered us the use of the school car park for the afternoon and evening of the concert. **This arrangement is for Chorus members only**, so please don't advertise it. Although the school is closed, the Glossop Road gates should open and close on approach just as they do on Tuesday evenings.

On the day you will be able to get into the Church from around 13.30. Please enter via the door from the church car park, rather than the main entrance. Once inside:

- Sign in at the desk just inside the car park entrance (NB NOT the main entrance)
- Sign in using your membership card, or on the sheet available
- As quickly as you can (to avoid congestion) move into the main body of the church.

We will sit in the chancel on the chairs provided. These may still be being organised because of last-minute apologies and the fact that it's an awkward space, so please be patient, alert for instructions and prepared to move if asked. Your place at the rehearsal on the day will be your place at the concert.

Please be in your place for the Saturday afternoon rehearsal by 13.50. Soloists will continue to rehearse when we finish, so please leave quickly and quietly.

There is a single dressing room upstairs, ie **NO SEPARATE FACILITIES FOR LADIES AND GENTS**; the stairs will be pointed out to you. Unfortunately there isn't a lift and the stairs are rather steep; some members may therefore prefer not to use the dressing room at all. It will be rather cramped in any case, so it would actually 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 room but don't leave valuables as the rooms won't be locked. There are toilets upstairs, as well as at the back of the church.

You may use the dressing room and the main body of the church to spend waiting time and to eat and drink if not going home or out for tea. Please leave these spaces clean and tidy. Darius, Rachel and the soloists will be using the side chapel as a place of calm and preparation, so please try not to disturb them while they are in there.

Soprano Charlotte Badham will sing Russian songs in the first half, accompanied by Rachel Fright on the piano. We will listen from our seats in the chancel.

There will be a concert programme, which we will provide free of charge. It won't include notes about the works, as Charlotte is going to introduce her songs, and Darius will talk about the All Night Vigil, including in relation to the conflict in Ukraine, probably mentioning our visit to Donatsk some years ago. There will be a retiring collection for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

We will enter the performance area without lining up. Just take your places informally and gradually, to minimise crowding. Please be in your seat by 18.50 at the latest.

There will be a short interval, and you can go back upstairs to the dressing room if you like. There won't be any refreshments, so bring your own if you need a drink. You might prefer to gather outside if the weather is reasonable. You can stay in your on-stage seat if you prefer, though you shouldn't be drinking while on stage – just make sure others in your row can enter and leave easily. Please try to stay away from areas where the audience is gathering, to reduce over-crowding. The interval will be about 20 minutes long, so be back in your seat in plenty of time.

Music in black folders please - and be careful not to turn pages over at the end of a movement; stay engaged and looking at the conductor until the next one starts. Turn the page early if we have a rapid entry, and turn pages quietly at all times.

We are in full concert dress, so please check that you have appropriate gear, especially if you are new – it would be a tragedy if you were unable to sing on the day! Black bow ties for gentlemen remember – and ladies take particular care about shoes, tights/socks etc – there shouldn't be anything fancy! See [Members Area / Arrangements for concerts / stage procedure and dress code](#) for details.

Please check the same section of the website for our stage procedure, though we won't be filing on (see above). The main thing is to stand when the conductor walks onto the stage, and don't clap soloists or conductor until they come back on for their second bow.

Covid precautions and general health and safety for the concert:

- Do not attend the concert 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
- Please wear face coverings at all times in the building, until just before we sing (unless you're exempt of course)
- Stay distanced as much as you can, especially in smaller spaces
- Try not to chat when you're in a small space
- Bring your own drinks and don't share them
- Please let us know if you get Covid after the concert, and say who sat near you
- Come in concert dress if you can so you don't need to use the dressing room
- Don't use breakable vessels in the dressing room; store and carry hot drinks safely
- No drinks on stage during the performance
- Keep belongings out of thoroughfares, especially in restricted areas
- Take care when using stairs and steps
- Make sure you know the emergency evacuation procedure (below)

In the event of an emergency, leave via the nearest exit – probably the car park door where you came in. However there are exits at the side and the back of church as well. Follow any directions we are given and leave in an orderly fashion. Do not try to retrieve belongings. Gather in the car park or in the nearby street if the car park becomes congested.

***Messiah* costs and request for sponsor ideas**

Thank you to the generous people who have offered sponsorship for the *Messiah* concert. This will help us cover the costs and 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.

If anyone has any ideas which corporate bodies or individuals we might approach with a view to sponsoring the concert, please contact any member of the committee.

***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.

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 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 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 would have to sell out to recover the costs of hiring the City Hall for the concert, and are predicting a loss of over £6,000. This means we will have 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.

Steve Terry's niece asks for help with choral music survey

Bass Steve Terry asks anyone with time to complete the short survey for his niece Ellie Melvin, who is studying for a degree in Music at Newcastle University. Ellie says '*As part of my final year assessments, I am carrying out a research project and my chosen topic is: Understanding the Conductor of Western Classical Choral Music: An exploration of choral singers' perceptions and expectations of conductors and conducting. To obtain data, I am looking for choral singers who would be willing to answer a 5-minute online survey.*' The survey is anonymous and explores singers' perceptions and expectations about conductors and conducting in general (the survey does NOT gather data about individual conductors or choirs). It really does take just 5 minutes and the link is below for those who are willing to help. Many thanks.

<https://newcastle.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/final-year-dissertation-survey-choral-conducting>

Tenors desperately needed (attachment)

Chesterfield Philharmonic Chorus are short of tenors for their *Messiah* concert, which will be on Saturday 9th April, 7.30pm, at the Crooked Spire Church, Chesterfield, accompanied by the Derbyshire Sinfonia (see attached flyer). MD Steven Roberts says tenors who know the work can just attend the rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert, but preferably also the last choir rehearsal on Thursday 7th April at Chesterfield Central Methodist Church. Any interested tenors should contact Steven directly on robertssteven017@gmail.com.

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 – 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.

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 – La Boheme at Lyceum (singing opportunities in attachment)

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).

The attachment shows singing opportunities that are coming up in April and beyond; thanks to John Morgan for sending this.

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/>