

**NB: NO REHEARSAL EASTER TUE 19 APR! Piano rehearsal on Thu 21 April 7pm KES**

Piano rehearsal Thursday 21 April 2022 at King Edward VII Upper School 7pm

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**Weekly Update Monday 18 April 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

**Piano rehearsal on Thursday 21 April 2022 at King Edward VII Upper School**

**Please note that, as usual at this time, there will be NO REHEARSAL on Tues 19 April.**

There will be a compulsory piano rehearsal for *Messiah*, at King Edward VII Upper School, on Thursday 21 April at 7pm. Parking available via the Glossop Road entrance, pedestrian entry via Glossop Road or Newbould Lane.

Please note that our French and German visitors will attend the rehearsal, so please make them welcome. Most speak excellent English as you might imagine. They will sit among us in the correct voice part rather than in separately, so please be accommodating and offer a seat near you if anyone looks unsure of where to sit.

Please make sure that you mark or paperclip your score to show which movements we are not singing, so that everyone has these clear by Thursday. The movement list is at [Members Area / Preparing the Music](#). We are not doing movements 19, 20, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 49, 50, 51 or 52. Note that the interval follows movement 33 Lift up your heads O Ye Gates.

***Messiah* ticket sales and special offer (attachment)**

We have sold 420 tickets for *Messiah*, with less than a week to go. Tickets are on special offer at £18 inclusive of £3, but with a service charge still applied; unfortunately this applies even if you get tickets in person. Tickets from <https://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk/event/messiah-23April2022>.

Please help us to advertise the concert by distributing the flyers that are available at rehearsals, and/or use the attached e-flyer to advertise the concert by email or social media. Please like and share the Facebook page and event – and re-tweet like mad. Many thanks.

<https://www.facebook.com/SheffieldPhilChorus>

**Messiah concert arrangements**

Please don't attend if you have symptoms of Covid or a cold or flu, or if you test positive or haven't been double vaccinated.

You will be able to get into the City Hall from around 12.45, to give everyone time to get on stage for 13.30 so the seating can be organised before the rehearsal starts. Please enter via the right-hand door of the main entrance on Barker's Pool and NOT via the Stage Door. Sign in on the tick-sheets provided and collect a wrist band at the desk in the main entrance foyer. Please keep your wrist band on all day as it shows security staff that you do not need to be searched.

To get from the entrance straight to the stage for the rehearsal:

- As quickly as you can (to avoid congestion) move out of the foyer into the ground floor corridors that surround the Oval Hall.
- Turn left if you are a soprano or a tenor and right if you are an alto or a bass, and proceed up the stairs to the circle floor. There's a lift from the foyer if you need it.
- Staying on the same side, walk to the end of the corridor and through the double doors into the back stage area.
- From there, proceed further along the corridor and down the backstage stairs that lead to the stage right entrance (sopranos and tenors) or stage left entrance (altos and basses).

You may prefer to go to the Chorus dressing rooms first to drop off your coats and bags, though this will involve a long walk and a lot of stairs, so it's not something to attempt in only a few minutes. There is a lift from the foyer; please ask at the main door if you prefer to use this.

We have been allocated the South Hall, which is next door to the ballroom in the basement (the North Hall will be used to prepare the buffet for the post-concert party). The South Hall will be divided for privacy.

To get from the entrance to the South Hall dressing room:

- As quickly as you can (to avoid congestion) move out of the foyer into the ground floor corridors that surround the Oval Hall.
- Turn right and walk to the end of the corridor and through the double doors into the back stage area.
- Proceed down the stairs facing you, all the way to the bottom, then through the double doors to the basement area. The ballroom is flanked on each side by the North and South Halls; there should be signs to tell you how to reach the South Hall.

If you leave the building at any time, you must sign out (and of course back in again) at the same desk, which will be left in place until 6.30pm - though everyone should aim to be back by 6.15 at the latest.

We will 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 note that the French and German singers have been asked to sit among us, so please be friendly and accommodating and invite them join to you if there's a space near you. We know the organ seats are very comfortable, but please move down if asked, as gaps in either area look messy and unprofessional to the audience, and aren't the best idea from a musical point of view either, especially when we're already well spaced. Seats are unallocated within each voice part, and your seat for the rehearsal is your place for the concert. Please arrange yourselves so that tall people sit towards the back, or the outsides of the row, because of sight lines. Be prepared to move if required.

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 of the stage. 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. Do look out for people who look lost and offer to help them – the City Hall can seem something of a labyrinth!

The band and soloists will continue rehearsing after we leave at 16.00, so please leave the stage quickly and quietly.

The South Hall is more spacious than rooms we have sometimes been allocated but will be more crowded than when we get both halls, so you may prefer to arrive already in concert dress, at least partly, to avoid having to change in a crowded space. You can leave your bags in the dressing rooms **but don't leave valuables as the rooms won't be locked.**

The City Hall staff have said we can use the South Hall and the balcony side areas (both balcony seats and adjacent corridors) to spend waiting time and to eat and drink if not going out for tea. Please leave these spaces as we find them.

Members with mobility issues will be able to use Dressing Room 1 – though the route to get there is longer than usual since we won't be using the stage door.

We will enter the stage as we did for the Christmas and Faure concerts, ie, without lining up. Just take your places informally and gradually, to minimise crowding on the stairs. If you're happy with the long wait you can start to take your on-stage seat any time after 6.15pm, **but please be in your seat by 6.50 at the latest.**

There will be a short interval after 'Lift up your heads O ye gates', 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 can stay in your on-stage seat if you prefer – just make sure others in your row can enter and leave easily.

Music should be in black folders. Please 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 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! 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). Stand when the conductor walks onto the stage. Don't clap soloists or conductors until they come back on for their second bow. Please note that Maggie has nothing to sing in the second half so, given her very recent bout of Covid, she is very sensibly taking the opportunity to go home at the interval. She wishes us all the very best, of course.

#### **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 are not double vaccinated
- 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
- 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, follow any directions we are given and leave in an orderly fashion. Do not try to retrieve belongings.

This information is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).

### **Messiah party arrangements**

The party will be in the ballroom immediately after the concert. Audience members who have tickets can make their way via the City Bar; there will be signage and stewards to guide people. There will be short speeches and presentations around 9.30pm, and the buffet will be served to ticket-holders at 9.45pm from the North Hall. There will be a bar until midnight. Thanks are due to Helen Kirk for organising the party, as well as afternoon tea for the band and soloists. Grateful thanks to those members who have volunteered to help Helen on the day.

This information is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).

### **Arrangements for German visit – SPC members invited on Thu & Fri**

Hosts have more detailed information, but here is the outline if you'd like to join the group.

- Wed 20 April: German visitors arrive in Sheffield.
- Thu 21 April 2022: Hardwick Hall & Gardens, [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick). SPC members welcome, meet at entrance hut at 11am, entrance £16. Return to Sheffield in time for a meal followed by *Messiah* rehearsal 7pm KES.
- Fri 22 April: Guided city centre walking tour from 10.30. SPC members welcome to join the group for coffee at Millenium Galleries café at 11.30. Lord's Mayor's reception and tour at Town Hall 1.00pm – 1.45pm. There are around 12 places available for the Lord Mayor's tour, if SPC members would like to go – please tell Graham or Louise Dawson. Lunch in city centre, free time to visit museums, galleries, shops, parks, Botanical Gardens, etc.
- Sat 23rd April: Free time in the morning, afternoon rehearsal at City Hall from 1.30pm. Eat in city centre cafés/restaurants. Concert 7pm-9pm, followed by party in the ballroom.
- Sun 24th April: Departures for journeys home.

Grateful thanks to Graham and Louise Dawson for organising the visit and for liaising with the German visitors. And special thanks to those members who are hosting visitors and/or providing transport and other help. You are all gems!

This information is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).

### **Arrangements for French visit – SPC members invited to concerts**

Hosts have more detailed information, but here is the outline if you'd like to join the group.

- Thu 21 April 2022: French visitors arrive in Sheffield. *Messiah* rehearsal 7pm KES.
- Fri 22 April: Travel to York, meet 11am at York Minster for sightseeing in York. Rehearsal at 4pm in St Michael's Church, Malton, followed by concert at 6.30pm
- Sat 23rd April: Free morning, rehearsal at City Hall from 1.30pm. Eat in city centre cafés/restaurants. Concert 7pm-9pm, followed by party in the ballroom.
- Sun 24th April: 11am Choral Eucharist St John the Baptist Church Buxton (all invited, French choir not singing but their organist is playing). Sightseeing in Buxton, those who have booked to meet for cream tea at 3pm in the tea room opposite the Opera House. Rehearsal at St John the Baptist Church 17.30 followed by concert at 7pm.
- Mon 25 April: Free morning, depart afternoon or evening

Please try to attend at one or both of the concerts (pay at the door), and promote them using the following links (please like and share if you're a Facebook user)

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EnsembleVocalePerigueuxEN>
- Website: [Choir Concert with Organist, Malton – Ensemble Vocal Perigueux](#)
- Social Media: [EnsembleVocalePerigueuxEN/](#)

Grateful thanks to Matthew Morgan and Marianne Grayson for organising and for liaising with the French visitors. And special thanks to those members who are hosting visitors and/or providing transport and other help. You are all gems!

This information is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).

### **Arrangements for bringing children to *Messiah* rehearsal on 23 April**

The children and grandchildren, nephews, nieces etc of Chorus members are welcome to attend the afternoon rehearsal for *Messiah* on Saturday 23 April, any time from 2pm. They should enter the City Hall via the main doors at the front, and sign at the same desk as Chorus members. They may sit anywhere in the stalls but must not go anywhere else in the building, ie, circle, balcony or backstage. They must leave by 4pm at the latest, but don't need to stay for the whole rehearsal and can leave at any time. However, re-entry will not be allowed. Please note that all children or young people under 18 MUST be accompanied by an adult who will stay with them and be responsible for their safety and well-being throughout the rehearsal.

This information is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).

### **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, Tottley 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 - Covid

Each member should assess the Covid-related risk and make their own decision about whether to attend; decisions will of course be respected. 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
- Wear a face covering 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
- Let us know if you get Covid; we will continue to alert anyone seated close by

For the latest advice please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

### Reminder – Rehearsal schedule

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 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:dariusbattiwalla@talktalk.net)

**Chair Paul Henstridge** [chairman@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:chairman@sheffieldphil.org)

**Administrator Anne**

**Adams** [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org) or [AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org)

**Membership Officer Marianne Grayson** [MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org)

**Finance Officer JaneParkin** [JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org) or [accounts@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:accounts@sheffieldphil.org)

**New members Officer Sally Turnbull** [SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org)

**Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson** [alananderson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto: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](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org). The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>