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

Next rehearsal Tuesday 29 March 2022 at KES

Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 29 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* in the first half and the Walton in the second, so please bring your own copy of *Messiah*. 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).

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

The incidence of Covid among choir members appears to have calmed down. However, it is clear that (a) Covid cases are rising across the population generally, (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) for most people, Covid presents as a cold, sometimes heavy and sometime mild.

Some members may wish to stay away from rehearsal until the number of cases across the population 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>

Volunteers needed to sing with the French choir

The French choir are putting on two concerts during their visit, in Malton on Friday 22 April 2022 at 6.30pm, and in Buxton on Sunday 24 April at 7pm. They are asking for volunteers to boost their numbers. [You can check out the full programme here](#) but it includes works by Couperin, Charpentier, Gounod, Fauré (including the *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Pavane*), Bach, Honegger and Lauridsen (including *O Magnum Mysterium*). If you are interested in singing at one or both concerts, please sign up at rehearsal or, for those not at rehearsals, email Administrator Anne Adams stating your voice part and the concert(s) at which you can sing.

Please promote the French concerts – and put the dates in your diaries!

Our French visitors are hoping that as many SPC members as possible will attend their two concerts – as they and their soloists and conductor attended the concerts we performed in Excideuil and St Astier. Tickets are £15 on the door, with funds going to the church and to help fund the trip to Sheffield. Please put the dates in your diaries!

Please promote the two concerts as widely as you can, using the links to the website and Facebook pages (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/](#)

Messiah tickets

Apologies, but there won't be tickets for Messiah for sale at rehearsals. The City Hall's terms and conditions of hire state that a fee will be charged if fewer than 50% of tickets are sold through them, via TicketMaster. Given the uncertainty about generating ticket sales, we can't risk incurring the fee. Also, tickets sold at rehearsal are restricted to the seats allocated by City hall, thus limiting choice. So please advise your family and friends that they should book via the online link at <https://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk/event/messiah-23April2022> or in person at the City Hall.

A reminder that we need to sell 1,000 tickets to cover the £18,000 it will cost to put on *Messiah* at the City Hall – a rather daunting target, especially when compared with previous sales (805 for 75th anniversary concert 2016, 348 for *Messiah* in 2017, 364 for *Holy Face* in 2019, 220 for Rachmaninov in 2022).

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.

Messiah party tickets now available

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 members of the band and 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 are on sale at rehearsals.

Fundraising success featured on Classical Sheffield website – and photos wanted

Classical Sheffield featured an item about our recent concert and the success in collecting for the Ukraine Red Cross Appeal. The article was featured in the most recent Classical Sheffield mailshot, and is also likely to feature on the Making Music website. **If anyone has a good photograph of the concert, please see Jim Monach**; thanks to Jim for writing and sending the copy. Read the article at <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/news/spc-fundraising-success>

Message from Michael Phillpott

Previous member Michael Phillpott is a long-standing Friend of the Chorus and was therefore recently invited to our Messiah concert. His very nice reply may be of interest to those who knew Michael. *“Thank you very much for your kind invitation but, I am very much afraid to say, I am unable to attend. I would dearly love to attend, not least as the number of people whom I know in the SPC is probably decreasing rapidly as each year passes!! Although I no longer sing we are lucky in Eastbourne that the London Philharmonic Orchestra visit us for an Autumn/Winter season each year and their last concert of this season is on Sunday 24th. As with everywhere, we were robbed of their presence for 18 months and when they gave their first concert (post lockdowns) last November we only had a 45-50% audience (our concert hall seats c1,700). That has gradually crept back up, presumably as people become more confident, so that we actually had a 'sold out' concert yesterday afternoon. Interestingly, as far as I am aware, I have never sat in an audience to listen to Messiah. Seems strange, but over the years I have sung it at least 59 times and 33 of those were as soloist - yes, I actually kept a fairly detailed record of all the concerts I sang in back to my schooldays and it makes for quite interesting (personal) reading. Whilst I do not sing, I am still working each week at the Bluebell Railway and alternate weeks for the RNLI here in Eastbourne - as well as managing some fairly strenuous walking on the South Downs - although it has been horrendously windy up there for the past 4 weeks! Anything to get me out of the flat!!!! I wish you all well, and hope that everything manages to come to fruition successfully on 23 April. Michael”*

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, 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 - 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.

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/>