

**NB On Tuesday men only from 7 to 7.15, semi-chorus from 8.45pm**

Next rehearsal Tues 03 May 2022 at KES (attachment);

*Messiah* feedback;

Gifts from the Chorus (photo attached);

Stella Jockel memorial service and legacy;

Come and Sing on Sunday 15 May 2022;

Diary dates (include compulsory rehearsal dates);

Reminders: Covid update, rehearsal schedule, new folders available;

What's On; Tell us if your contact details change; Web links and passwords; Contact emails

**Weekly Update Monday 2 May 2022 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))**

**Next rehearsal on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at King Edward VII Upper School** (attachment)

The next rehearsal is this coming Tuesday 3 May 2022 at King Edward VII Upper School, at 7pm. We will rehearse the Belshazzar. **Please note that men only will rehearse from 7 to 7.15pm, and the semi-chorus (list attached) from 8.45 to 9.15.**

The rehearsal schedule has been updated to show when men only and semi-chorus sessions will be etc; see <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf> (you may need to clear your cache by clicking refresh or F5, in order to see the revised version). The link is also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) along with travel and access details. Parking is available via the Glossop Road entrance only; pedestrian entry is via either Glossop Road or Newbould Lane.

Don't forget that Darius would like us to sit as follows: from the right facing the stage, upstairs Soprano 1 Alto 1 Alto 2 Soprano 2, downstairs Bass 1 Tenor 1 Tenor 2 Bass 2 (basses can come round behind the tenors if necessary).

There are links to learning and rehearsal resources for the Walton, at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#). User name and password at bottom of each update.

### ***Messiah* feedback**

In addition to a great review in the Sheffield Telegraph, and verbal congratulations and high praise from Darius, Maggie, BBC's Trisha Cooper, audience members, band members and staff at City Hall, here is a selection of the written feedback we have received.

Catrin Pryce-Jones: *'Last night was SO special - thank you very much for having me'*

Richard Rowe *'Thank you so much for what was, I thought, a wonderful performance yesterday. I was so impressed when I worked with the Black Dyke Band last time on the Holy Face. I think before that experience I might have been slightly sceptical perhaps about a brass accompanied Messiah; I would have been quite wrong of course. It was a quite wonderful sound world that was conjured up. The very pragmatic and flexible Handel would have approved! The choir - choirs indeed - were so impressive. I was really pleased to be part of such an outward looking, inclusive and pan-European event. The singing was so well controlled. The separation of All We Like Sheep springs to mind; when smudgy it lacks meaning for me. This level of detail was present again and again in the concert. The.....final moments of this oratorio are powerful. Last night, of the two or three dozen times I have done it, those phrases were the most powerful I have heard. That will stay with me for a very long time indeed. With best wishes, Richard'*

James Geidt: *'Many thanks for yesterday and the superb hospitality shown to us throughout the day. I also wanted to say how brilliantly I thought the combined choirs sang together – the standard of the chorus was truly excellent. I'm only sorry that I wasn't on top form being at the backend of this cold. I very much hope our paths will cross again and I can come back to Sheffield to sing with the Chorus in the near future! All best wishes, James Geidt Baritone'*

Black Dyke Band: *'I must say, despite the length of the day the band thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is always a pleasure to work with the Sheffield Philharmonic and Darius, when we have performed Messiah in the past we haven't always had such high quality singers and conductors to work with. Thank you once again for a wonderful performance and for inviting us to be able to be part of it. We look forward to seeing you all again in City Hall at Christmas. Regards, John B. O'Brien, Secretary, Black Dyke Band'*

Nigel Gyte (our previous accompanist) *'Please pass on my.... CONGRATULATIONS! A huge well done to everyone involved in Saturday's 'Messiah' concert. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The 'sound' during the concluding few bars was tremendous, providing a fitting end to a highly successful event. It was great to see & hear everyone again. With my very best wishes, Nigel'*

Vice Chancellor Sheffield Hallam University (our guest): *'Just a note to thank you for this invitation and to say how much we enjoyed the evening and the performance – worked so well with a brass band setting! Best wishes, Chris'*

Mary Wragg aged 96 (our guest as a Friend of the Chorus): *'I had an absolutely wonderful evening, many thanks to the Phil for inviting me' 'Thank you so much for facilitating the wonderful performance on Saturday night! We all enjoyed it. My amazing mother stayed the course with energy to spare. Thank you again. Adrian, and Sarah (son & daughter-in-law)*

Sheffield Region Brass Network (via Twitter): *'Great to see Handel's #Messiah performed this evening by @blackdyke & @SheffPhilChorus @SheffCityHall' with visiting choir members from Bochum in Germany & Perigueux in France @sheffieldbrass'*

SPC members in the audience:

- *'I was lucky enough to be in the audience last night. It was a triumph. 'Surely' was uplifting. 'Since by Man' was electrifying. What a choir! I had my doubts that it would work with a brass band, except as a curiosity; but my doubts were wiped away and in fact the brass band version allowed me to hear many things I'd not noticed before in the orchestral version. Congratulations to all.'* Nigel Wright (bass)
- *'I must say how much Gerald and I enjoyed Saturday's concert. We really couldn't imagine how Messiah would sound with a brass band - but it was amazing! The party afterwards was a fitting celebration marking the outstanding work of Darius over 25 years, the longstanding service of some members and officers as well as the visit by our friends from Germany and France. Helen did a superb job, as usual, and the City Hall staff were very friendly and helpful in serving an excellent buffet.'* Janet Bower (soprano)
- *Great performance tonight everyone - well done. Can't tell you just how much I was wishing I could be up there with you* (Sue Milchard (soprano))
- *Loved it. Wish I could have been singing with you.* (Howard Dore (bass))

Audience members: *'Just wanted to say that Helen and I thoroughly enjoyed last night - it will definitely remain in the memory banks of happy occasions. Black Dyke were amazing, also Catrin was wonderful- and your chorus superb as always! All the best Jane' 'Hi enjoyed Messiah last night, brilliant .... the evening swept past. Many thanks and best wishes'*

**Gifts presented to Darius and Chorus members (photo attached)**

In recognition of the fact that Darius has been our conductor for 25 years, the Chorus presented him with a bound and inscribed full orchestra score of Bach's *Mass in B minor*, and a beautiful David Mellor stainless tray, cafetiere, milk jug, sugar pot & coffee scoop (he's a big coffee fan). The tray was engraved "Presented to Darius Battiwalla to celebrate 25years as Music Director, with gratitude from the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. 1997-2022"

For fantastic service to the Chorus:

- Els Pearse (Librarian for many years) was given a 1923 silver bowl engraved with "*Presented to Els with gratitude from the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus April 2022*" and a bound and inscribed score.
- Sue Pennington (Minutes Secretary) was given a large Dartington Fortuna crystal bowl engraved "*Presented to Sue with gratitude from the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus April 2022*" and a bound and inscribed score.
- Graham Dawson (Finance Officer ) received a set of Burgon & Ball garden tools: secateurs, a border fork, plus a long handled fork, trowel and rake. The three long handled tools were inscribed "*Presented to Graham with gratitude from the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus April 2022*", and a bound and inscribed score.

For reaching an amazing 50 years with the Chorus, bound and inscribed scores were presented to Rachel Copley, Helen Eyre and Sally Knight.

### **Stella Jockel memorial service and legacy**

Stella Jockel, who died in 2019, was a member of the Chorus for many years. The choir meant a very great deal to her, so much so that she left us a legacy in her will, to the tune of £36,000. This is an amazingly generous bequest, and discussions are under way to determine how to use this legacy in Stella's memory.

Planning is still at an early stage, but a portion of it is likely to be used to fund a Young Composer's Competition, open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 35 who was born, lived or studied in Sheffield. The prizes will be awarded and the winning work performed at the Classical Sheffield Festival finale on Sunday 19 March 2023, forming the first half of the Mahler concert which we are co-presenting with Hallam Choral Society, Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra and Hallam Sinfonia.

Stella's family are delighted (and quite overcome) that some of Stella's legacy will be used in this way. She was a teacher and vicar's wife who organised the church choir, making every effort to recruit and encourage young people. When finding a replacement organist locally proved impossible, Stella contacted numerous musical institutions to try and recruit an aspiring young person. She found a candidate in a young Greek student, who played every Sunday for a small remuneration which she arranged. Her family and close friends are sure that Stella would be pleased and proud to support such a worthy project.

Stella's funeral was restricted by Covid-19 rules, so her family is holding a memorial celebration on Saturday 18 June 2022 at Topley Parish Church at 2pm. They have invited the Chorus to sing at this event, so please put the date in your diaries. A sign-up sheet will be available soon.

### **Come and Sing on Sunday 15 May 2022**

Workshop in the Samuel Worth Chapel, exploring Tippett's arrangement of Willis's *Steal Away* and American composer Shruthi Rajasekar's *Jayjaykar!*, before an informal performance to friends and family at the end of the event. Sheffield Chamber Choir's Robert Webb will lead the workshop. Tickets £5, plus booking fee. <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events/2022/come-sing>

**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 11 June 2022: Walton *Belshazzar's Feast* at City Hall (part of SICS). Compulsory rehearsals Tue 07 Jun 7pm at KES (with conductor Finnegan Downie Deare) 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

- A concert in St Mark's Church Broomhill, probably early November 2022. Self-funded.
- 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 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 – Revised rehearsal schedule

The revised rehearsal schedule is at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>; you might need to refresh your cache (press F5 or Refresh) to see the revised version. The link is 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.

### **Reminder - new folders available**

Black folders sporting the revised SPC logo are available at rehearsals, priced £7.50. Members are under no obligation to buy a new one, but if you would like to replace yours, please see Sally Turnbull; the correct change would be appreciated. We don't want the old ones back so feel free to use them for something else.

### **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 *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](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 Jane Parkin [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/>