

Rehearsal is at Lower School this week – see below for instructions.

New items: Carol concert arrangements. Electives. Massage from our President Rachel Copley.

Next rehearsal is on Tuesday 13 December 2022

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 13 December at 7pm, at King Edward's Lower School; a reminder that there's a rail strike planned for that day.

The rehearsal will be in the Sports Hall in the Lower School, Darwin Lane, Sheffield, S10 5RG; there's a Google map [on the school's website](#). Please walk round the building to the right of the entrance and turn left around the high brick wall into to the back entrance, which takes you directly into the Sports Hall. Please leave via the same route at the end.

Anne has checked and the school assures us that the route will be well gritted so there should be no danger of slipping. However, they will remove the barrier so that members with poor mobility can drive round the back and park near the back entrance. Please only use this facility if you really need it as there may not be space for many vehicles. It's worth pointing out that the Lower School is well used for sports activities which unfortunately makes parking difficult; you may need to park some distance away, so do allow extra time.

For those travelling by bus the 51 and 120 bus services both have stops about 15 minute's walk from the school. For further information see the [Travel South Yorkshire website](#).

Weather conditions may make it difficult for some members to get to the rehearsal on Tuesday. It's the compulsory piano rehearsal for the carol concert, so please see Marianne Grayson to find out if this will affect your ability to sing in the concert (see below for her email). Special permission will very much depend on attendance records to date.

A reminder that Helen Kirk and Richard Salt are collecting donations to pay for the sherry and mince pies get together with Black Dyke, which will be backstage at the City Hall, during the carol concert interval. They will also be selling raffle tickets for a sumptuous Christmas hamper; these will be on sale until the winning ticket is drawn at the concert interval.

Christmas concert arrangements (publicity attached)

The concert is on Saturday 17 December 2021 at 14.30 in the City Hall; rail strike planned for that day. The concert running order is here: <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/xmas22ch.pdf>

Almost 1,300 tickets sold so far. The circle is sold out so is greyed out on the seating plan online, but there are seats still available in the stalls. The balcony seats are not available and will only be opened if sales pick up - and to think we gave two packed performances for many years. Please help to advertise the concert by distributing City Hall flyers (available at rehearsals) and the attached social media files.

There will be a compulsory pre-concert conductor's rehearsal from 12 noon to 1.30pm in the City Hall. Your place at the 12 noon rehearsal on the day will be your place at the concert.

The seating plan will be like last year, using the organ stalls as well as the choir risers, so we can spread out. The seating plan will be circulated by separate email before the concert; please examine it, and any instructions that come with it, carefully.

Every chorus member will need to watch Darius like a hawk, and sing out with confidence, given the City Hall's very dry acoustic and the fact that we will be more spread out than usual. In these circumstances it really won't work if everyone waits for someone else to come in, so every chorus member needs to make sure they know the pieces and have their copies well marked with Darius' instructions.

On the day you will be able to get into the City Hall from around 11.30am, using the Stage Door entrance which is round the back, on the right as you look at the hall, down a short flight of steps. There's a bell on the right if the door is locked.

Please make sure you sign in – sheets will probably be at the stage door so please tick your name/number and move away as quickly as you can, as it's quite cramped there. If there are no sheets there, they will be on a table in the production corridor. To get there from the Stage Door, walk through the double doors on the left of the foyer, through another set of double doors, past the conductor dressing rooms; the table will be on the right just beyond yet another set of double doors. You will need to sign out again on leaving, and back in again on your return - and we may well be issued with wrist bands.

Please make your way to the stage for the 12 noon rehearsal as quickly as you can, so that there is no crowding on the corridors and we don't get in the way of the Black Dyke Band. Ask at the Stage Door if you don't know the way to get on to the stage, or arrange to go with a choir member who does know. Sopranos and tenors enter stage right (up the stairs just next to the Stage Door) while altos and basses enter stage left, which is up the stairs on the opposite side of the building - walk past the sign-in desk through a further set of double doors to get to these.

Dressing rooms have yet to be confirmed, but we are likely to be allocated to the Vincent Harris and Barbirolli suites. There should be signage to both suites - ask at the Stage Door if there isn't. They are small and cramped, and it would be a big help if as many members as possible could arrive already in concert dress, at least partly. You can leave your bags in the dressing rooms but don't leave valuables as the rooms won't be locked. Those bringing a packed lunch can eat in the balcony seats, or in the corridor outside the dressing rooms, but please leave these spaces as we find them. Those with mobility issues, and those dressing the stage, may use Dressing Room 3, which is at stage entrance level on the alto and bass side - there are still stairs to climb, just not so many!

We aren't going to line up so please just drift on in your own time, aiming to be on stage by 2.25pm at the latest.

There will be a short interval (hopefully 30 minutes but could be shorter) during which we will enjoy sherry and mince pies with the band members in the production corridor. Unfortunately, there will be very little time so if you need a comfort break you will have to drink your sherry very quickly as we need to be back in our seats again before the second half starts.

We will be in full concert dress; please check the dress code, especially if you are new. [Check what you can and can't wear here](#). Ladies please be especially careful - no lace or sequins, crop pants or leggings, and make sure you wear black tights or socks and black shoes. However, for the Christmas concert gentlemen may wear a snazzy or Christmassy bow tie, and ladies may add Christmas jewellery, eg flashing ear-rings or necklaces.

If you want a concert programme then you'll need to buy one from the box office.

Please store all music in your black Chorus folders. You may find it useful to wind narrow black elastic round the folder to secure your copies; this method is especially useful for large sheets which tend not to fit the in-built cords. You can buy the elastic from any haberdashery store. You can't see it from the audience.

Please observe the relevant sections of our [stage procedure which you will find here](#).

Please read the Health and Safety procedure listed below, in particular to make yourself aware of the evacuation procedure. Please don't wear after shave or perfume, as some members have quite serious allergies and perfume and after shave can affect breathing.

- do not attend if you have Covid or 'flu
- don't share music or drinks etc
- come in concert dress so you don't need to use the cramped dressing rooms
- don't use breakable vessels in dressing rooms
- 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 the stairs and steps to the stage
- hold on to your belongings while on the choir risers as anything we drop disappears onto the floor below and is difficult for staff to retrieve
- make sure you know the emergency evacuation procedure (below)

In the event of an emergency, a continuous alarm will be sounded, and we will be directed out to either the war memorial on Barker's Pool (fire), or to Devonshire Green (bomb alert). Follow the directions of marshals and leave in an orderly fashion. Do not try to retrieve belongings.

Arrangements for the concert are already on the website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).

Extra singers needed for carol singing! (two attachments)

Please sign up for the two remaining carol singing sessions. Do see if you could contribute, they will all be great fun. Instructions and carol list attached. Collect sheet music at rehearsal on Tuesday, or on the day if you find you can join at the last minute. Georgina Hulse will conduct; thank you Georgina! Please circulate the advert for the Macmillan Care event (attached).

Wednesday 14 December at 7pm in the Millennium Galleries, carol concert for Friends of Sheffield Museums annual Christmas event. 13 sops, 7 altos, 2 tenors, 6 basses. Singing for about 45 minutes. Full concert dress including scarves for ladies. Rehearsal 6pm. Drinks and snacks provided. Georgina Hulse will conduct. There's a rail strike scheduled that day.

Monday 19 December at 12.30, event in support of Macmillan Cancer Care in the Virgin Money Lounge (upstairs) for an hour or so. 6 sops, 3 altos, 1 tenor, 4 basses. No need for concert dress – jolly Christmas garb please. Drinks and mince pies provided. The lovely John Birchall – the man with the pram and green wig - may be there. Georgina Hulse will conduct. Please distribute the attached poster via family and friends. Thank you.

Thanks to elective singers

Georgina Hulse says thank you to those who sang at Meadowhall, which went very well despite the lack of rehearsal – not least due to Paul Henstridge's success in getting managers to turn off the piped music across the whole of Meadowhall for the duration of the singing! Special thanks to Georgina for conducting.

Rachel Copley sends huge thanks to all that sang at the St. Luke's Service. 'The weather caused a few problems for folk getting in to Sheffield, but there was a very well balanced choir sound despite this. It was, as always, very poignant in parts, and the Phil's contribution added hugely to the atmosphere of the service, with some really lovely singing, from all, and some appreciative comments afterwards, so thank you everybody!' Grateful thanks to Rachel for conducting.

Christmas message to the Chorus from President Rachel Copley

'May I wish you all the very best for Christmas, a season to enjoy precious time with loved ones, and one to anticipate the coming year, with its promise of music making to come. With love, Rachel X'

Last chance for help with paying subs!

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online form and paid their subs – it's greatly appreciated. Last chance to get help from Jane on Tuesday - please pay if you haven't yet!

- Please use the online subs form <https://forms.office.com/r/EKSd5X1z4Z>
- Please pay by internet bank transfer or by standing order, no cheques or cash.
- Monthly standing order payments available for those paying for 2 or 3 terms. If paying for one term, please make a single internet bank transfer.
- Please ensure that monthly standing order payments complete and stop in July, then restart the following November when the new subscription rate is fixed.

If any of these changes are unmanageable, please see Jane Parkin, Finance Officer, or Marianne Grayson, Membership Officer.

Reminder - Classical concerts in Sheffield (attachment)

Classical Sheffield has listed all the festive concerts that members are putting on for Christmas, and it's a splendidly long list with lots of choice, so do have a look and share it with friends and family – it's attached. You might also share it via Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=849268289700584&set=a.734344751192939> or Twitter <https://twitter.com/ClassicalSheff>

Darius organ recitals

Darius will play in St Anne's cathedral in Leeds on 19 December. See <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/concerts.html>

Diary dates (dates in italics are voluntary electives; attendance expected at all others)

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).

- Saturday 17 Dec 2022: City Hall carol concert with Black Dyke Band, 2.30pm. SICS. Rehearsal probably from 12 noon to 1.30pm at the City Hall.
- Saturday 4 Feb 2023: Caroline Shaw's Music in Common Time with Manchester Camerata, 7pm City Hall. SICS (15 minute choral piece). Compulsory rehearsal probably from 2 to 4pm, to be confirmed.
- Sunday 19 Mar 2023 Mahler Symphony No. 2 City Hall with Hallam Choral Society, Hallam Sinfonia and Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor George Morton, soprano Ella Taylor, mezzo Anna Harvey. Includes performance of the Young Composer Competition winning piece and forms the finale of Classical Sheffield's 10th anniversary Festival Weekend. Self-funded. Rehearsal probably from 2pm to 5pm. To be confirmed.
- Sunday 18 Jun 2023: Verdi Requiem at City Hall with the Halle and Leeds Festival Chorus, 7pm. SICS. Compulsory rehearsal some time between 2pm and 5pm, to be confirmed.

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](#) (new spreadsheet uploaded).

Choraline rehearsal tracks

If you use [Choraline](#) to purchase rehearsal tracks, please note that we have a discount of 20% on standard prices. To claim this, use the code SHEFF and type 'SINGER' in the discount code on the basket page. If ordering by telephone, quote these when asked.

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 M4hler8D@rius22; 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 Jo Briddock chairman@sheffieldphil.org or JoanneBriddock@sheffieldphil.org

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Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson alananderson@sheffieldphil.org

S1 Voice Rep Katrina Hulse KatrinaHulse@sheffieldphil.org

S1 Voice Rep Jacqui Amos JacquiAmos@sheffieldphil.org

S2 Voice Rep Patricia Hall PatHall@sheffieldphil.org

A1 Voice Rep Nerissa Kisdon NerissaKisdon@sheffieldphil.org

A2 Voice Rep Kate Reece KateReece@sheffieldphil.org

T1 & T2 Voice Rep Jim Monach, 1st Tenor JimMonach@sheffieldphil.org

B1 Voice Rep Richard Salt RichardSalt@sheffieldphil.org

B2 Voice Rep Alan Lacey AllanLacey@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/>