

New items: Venue for Verdi rehearsal Fri 16 June; More Mahler 2 concert feedback; Message from Anne Adams; No concert videos on social media please; BBC cuts update; Come Sing Broomhill 10 June; Leeds Leider Festival 9 to 17 June with Dame Janet Baker; 25% off Trinity singing ebooks

Next rehearsal is on Tuesday 28 March 2023

The next rehearsal is on Tuesday 28 March at 7pm, at King Edward's Upper School. We will be rehearsing the Verdi Requiem, so bring your own copy or hire one for £3 if you were absent last week; please try to have the correct change. There's a link to recordings and rehearsal tracks for the Verdi on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#).

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Mahler 2 score. If you haven't yet please do so, with markings rubbed out so our Librarians don't have to spend hours on this task. Many thanks.

A gentle reminder that Darius prefers all members to take part in all concerts wherever possible, and to attend all rehearsals in any case. So please check this season's concert and rehearsal dates at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf> or via the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) (user name *member* password *M4hler8D@rius22*).

Please note that the compulsory conductor rehearsal for the Verdi *Requiem* concert will be on Friday 16 June at 7pm, **at Birkdale School, 4 Oakholme Road, Sheffield, S10 3DH** (Springs Academy has cancelled).

Men only—YOUR CHOIR NEEDS YOU

Bring a friend to Verdi rehearsals!! Help with recruitment NOW!! You chaps know how much you enjoy singing with SPC because you turn up every Tuesday and love it. Why not share your enthusiasm and help recruit more men by all bringing at least one male friend to come and try Verdi *Requiem* rehearsals in March and April? We have had good numbers of new members to the choir recently, but never enough men, so please all help. The committee decided that Verdi *Requiem* is such an iconic, exciting and accessible piece to rehearse and perform that it would be a great work for those a bit unsure of singing to come and try us. Please think about it and each of you SPC men, bring a man!! (Double brownie points for tenors!)

Mahler 2 concert

Here is some more feedback about the Mahler 2 concert:

- **S2 Rachel Copley, SPC President:** *'Dear Friends, If, like me, you are still 'coming down' from the concert on Sunday, you will hopefully agree that we were involved in something very special that night. The concert proved a fitting climax in celebrating everything that had gone on throughout Sheffield during the Festival, with performances in many genres, but proving what talent there is in our part of the world. I thought that the evening's music, with the new, original settings of the atmospheric poem, the grandeur of the Mahler, and the response from the capacity audience, proved how powerful music can be, evoking deep feelings and emotions, from performers and those listening alike. We owe huge thanks to all who contributed to the concert, and here's to the next one! With best wishes, Rachel.'*
- **Anna Harvey email:** *'Thank you for such a wonderful concert last night - it was very special indeed for me to sing such glorious music in my hometown with so many friends, family and former music teachers in the audience, and I've been humming the melodies all the way home on my journey today! Thanks again, and all the very best, Anna'*
- **Ella Taylor on Twitter:** *'On my way back to London after an unbelievable performance of Mahler 2 for the end of the [@ClassicalSheff](#) weekend with the combined forces of [@HallamSinfonia](#), [@SheffieldPhil](#), [@SheffPhilChorus](#) and [@HallamChoral](#), fellow soloist*

[@AnnaHarveyMezzo](#). Conducted fabulously by [@george conducts](#), Darius Battiwalla and Richard Laing. Many of you will know (and some won't!) that Sheffield is my hometown, so coming back to sing is always special, but there was something about Sunday night that's hard to put into words. A sold out City Hall and so many local musicians coming together to put on something this extraordinary is really quite a feat, and it'll stay with me for a very long time. Not ashamed to say I cried at the end - what an incredibly special concert to be a part of.'

- **Mason Birch:** 'Thank you for performing my piece; it was so surreal being able to finally hear my music performed live in person (rather than just some clunky computer generated mp3 file). Regards, Mason'
- **Gustav Mahler Society:** 'Thank you for a wonderful evening. I was bowled over by the performance of the Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallam Sinfonia and the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and Hallam Choral Society. Mahler's Second Symphony is really challenging and I was drawn into the music as I felt that everyone had put their heart and soul into the performance, which I thoroughly enjoyed. The whole project showed how musicians and communities can pull together to produce something outstanding and the evening must have inspired a sense of real achievement for the performers and elation for [organisers] as the evening was a triumph especially after the dearth of concerts during lockdown.....Best wishes ... from all of us'
- **Lord Lieutenant:** 'Congratulations on a spectacular evening – wow! It was an utter triumph and clear how much hard work had gone into making such a success. Well done for bringing all that to our city, our county, it was such a special evening'

Message from Anne Adams

'Heartfelt thanks for the wonderful flowers and garden voucher I received last week, and especially for the very kind words and appreciation. They mean such a lot. I was a bit taken aback so didn't get chance to say that it's wonderful to be able to reply on the help of so many people – everyone is so generous with their time and effort, it makes it all much easier than it might otherwise be. Thank you very much to all those who helped – you're all stars. I do consider myself blessed that at last, after a life having music very much 'on the side', I can devote myself to musical activities. I love it all so much. And you're all such lovely people. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Anne'

No concert extract videos on social media please!

Just a reminder that the City Hall forbids the sharing of concert snippets on social media – and we do not have permission from the soloists for this. Many thanks

BBC classical music cuts - update (still worth taking action)

Last Tuesday Darius talked to us about the cuts being made by the BBC to its classical music output, namely (as far as is known at the moment) the closure of the BBC Singers and the cut in funding of the BBC orchestras. As a result of all the protests, the BBC has announced that the BBC Singers will continue while talks take place about alternative funding sources; see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-65063238>. This implies the BBC will not fund the singers, and presumably the orchestra cuts are still to go ahead.

Thank you to all those who acted last week; our collective voices as lovers of classical music are clearly having some effect. If you haven't already had the chance, you might want to consider taking some of the actions using amended wording, given that the announcement, while welcome, does not represent a change of heart on the part of the BBC.

1. Submit a complaint to the BBC's Complaints department at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/contact/complaints/make-a-complaint/#/Complaint>
2. Sign this petition (still open and with just 45 off 150,000 signatures when last checked) at <https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-planned-closure-of-the-bbc-singers>
3. Complain to the BBC Board: see <https://www.ism.org/news/take-action-against-bbc-cuts-to-classical-music>
4. Write to Director General Tim Davie at tim.davie@bbc.co.uk
5. Write to Charlotte Moore, the Chief Content Office at the BBC charlotte.moore@bbc.co.uk
6. Write to Lorna Clarke, the Head of Radio and Music at the BBC lorna.clarke@bbc.co.uk
7. Write to your MP (find yours here: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/Commons>)
8. Share posts you see on social media, especially those that are spreading the link to 'what to do' information.

There's a great blog at this link with suggested wording that you easily amend:
<https://blog.thoroughlygood.me/2023/03/14/what-you-can-do-to-save-the-bbc-singers-and-orchestral-musicians/>

Many thanks for your help, and for agreeing to allow our SPC social media accounts to get involved in this issue.

Reminder - new SPC black folders

Sally and Marianne will have a few folders at each rehearsal from now on, for anyone who'd like to buy a new folder which carries the up-to-date SPC logo, price £7.50. No obligation, but it might suit you if your folder is getting a bit battered. Don't forget that narrow black elastic wound round the spine a few times, holds lots of large-sized scores more effectively than the in-built folder cords, and can't be seen by the audience.

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).

City Hall ask that we keep Mum about the 2023-24 City Hall dates as the brochure has not yet been published.

- Sunday 18 Jun 2023 at 7pm: Verdi *Requiem* at City Hall with Halle and Leeds Festival Chorus, SICS. Compulsory conductor rehearsal Friday 16 June 7pm at Birkdale School, on-the-day rehearsal sometime between 2pm and 5pm, to be confirmed.
- Saturday 28 October 2023 Concert at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, programme to be confirmed. Self-funded
- Tuesday 14 November 2023 – AGM
- Monday 20 November 2023, Victoria Hall, carols with Black Dyke Band (recording session for their new Christmas CD)
- *Sunday 10 December 2023: St Luke's Carol, Service, Sheffield cathedral 2pm (elective)*
- Saturday 16 December 2023 Christmas Concert with Black Dyke Band, Petroc Trelawny presenter. SICS. One concert, 2.30pm.
- Saturday 16 March 2024. Victoria Hall. Programme to be confirmed. Self-funded
- Friday 21 June 2024 Mozart *Requiem*, Cadogan Hall London (invitation)

- Saturday 22 June 2024– Mozart *Requiem* with Flanders Symphony Orchestra. SICS. Also, Mozart *Don Giovanni*: Overture and Beethoven Symphony No.8.
- Sunday 23 June 2024 Mozart *Requiem*, Usher Hall Edinburgh (invitation)
- 10 to 17 July 2024 Faure *Requiem*, mini tour in France (self funded)

Bring & Sing Choral Day Sat 10 June (attachment)

Martin Lightowler is organising a Bring and Sing Choral day in Broomhill on Saturday June 10th. Martin conducts The Westside Singers and is an experienced choral conductor. See attached flyer, or email martinlightowler@gmail.com or text on 07948 407 209.

Leeds Leider Festival 9 to 17 June - guest Dame Janet Baker 11 June (attachment)

A flyer for the Leeds Leider Festival is attached. Note the event featuring Dame Janet Baker on Sunday afternoon 11 June.

Trinity Singing Publications – 25% discount

Trinity are offering a 25% discount to all UK choirs for their new ebook singing publications. Use code **UKCHOIRS23!** at checkout. Valid until 31 May 2023. [Follow this link](#) to view and/or order.

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'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).

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

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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/>