

New: Monday's recording arrangements; return recording music on Tue with marking rubbed out please! AGM and social on Tue, please take a name label; sign up for carol singing electives – note mini rehearsal 28 Nov; Durufle ticket sales; sad news; sing *Messiah* with Bakewell Choral Soc (see singing opportunities)

Rehearsals

Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 21 November 2023 King Edward's Upper School at 7pm with Darius. The rehearsal will end at 8.30 with the AGM following straight on. Tenors and basses downstairs, soprs and altos avoid the area with no lights. The code for the pedestrian gate is #7816. **Please remember to sign in at the laptop, or manual sheet if you don't have a card or are late.**

Cars will be safe to leave in the car park – we have an extension until 10.30pm. Please complete and wear a label showing your first name, so we can get to know one another a little better. The labels will be at or near the sign-in desk.

Please remember to turn off the sound on your mobile 'phone during the rehearsal – it's distracting to other members - and it goes without saying that no-one should be using it during the rehearsal unless there's an emergency.

Darius will not be issuing a rehearsal schedule for this term, the remaining four rehearsals are for the Christmas carol concert. He will issue a rehearsal schedule for the rest of the year in due course, at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>, also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) (user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

Please check next season's concert dates and their compulsory piano and tutti rehearsal dates and times (in Diary Dates below) and let your Voice Rep know about any concert or compulsory rehearsal you are unable to attend. A gentle reminder that Darius prefers all members to take part in all concerts wherever possible, and to attend all rehearsals in any case. Many thanks.

New folders are available at rehearsals, from Sally and Marianne, price £7.50. No obligation. Narrow black elastic wound round the spine a few times holds multiple copies of sheet music more effectively than the in-built folder cords, and can't be seen by the audience.

Music

Please return the Rutter copies – and **please please rub out your markings before handing them in.** It doesn't take the Librarians a day to rub out for those who didn't remember, as I previously reported – it takes a week of their spare time. This is clearly an unfair burden to place on them. Many thanks.

Please arrive in time to collect the carol concert music so Darius can still start at 7pm. The hire charge will be £1 so please have a coin rather than a note if you can! You will also need to bring your 100 Carols for Choirs. Copies will be on sale to newer members.

Recordings and rehearsal tracks for the carols will be uploaded to the website as soon as Anne has time to do it - at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#) (user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

If you use [Choraline](#) to purchase rehearsal tracks, please note that we have a discount of 20% off 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.

Arrangements for the recording on Monday 20 November 2023 (attachment)

The arrangements were circulated by separate email last week. A printable version is attached. They are also on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#) along with a map of the site showing the way in etc.

AGM

The 87th AGM is immediately after the rehearsal and all are welcome. If you aren't staying please make sure you send your apologies to Kathy Towers at kathytowers@sheffieldphil.org and that you leave quickly and quietly. The formal notice and papers were distributed by email on 06 November 2023; to save money and trees, printed copies will not be provided. They are on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Official Documents / AGM](#)

After the AGM (which only lasts 30 mins or so) we will be having our wine and cheese social down in the dining room as last year. Helen Kirk has organised wine and soft drinks along with a range of delicious cheeses and nibbles. Most members very much enjoy this rare opportunity to chat to people, so do stay for it if you can. Please complete and wear a label showing your first name, so we can get to know one another a little better. The labels will be at or near the sign-in desk.

During the social there will an opportunity for members to respond to a draft set of strategic aims which will be displayed on large posters. The draft aims have been developed by the committee with input from Darius, Rachel and Maggie. Our Chair, Jo Briddock, will mention this development in her comments towards the end of the AGM. This won't be the only opportunity for members to contribute, so those who can't be there on the day will not miss out.

Electives

Anne Adams will have sheets on which you can sign up for the carol-singing elective events, so please look out for those and sign up. There are two so far (and perhaps only those two):

- Thursday 7 December 2023 carols at Bents Green School Ringinglow Rd at 2.30pm for half an hour. Rachel Copley will conduct, Nigel Gyte will play. Bright Xmas garb. It's a special school so please expect 'noises off'. It promises to be fun so do sign up!
- Sunday 10 December 2023: St Luke's Carol Service, Sheffield cathedral 2pm Full concert dress, rehearsal at 1pm in the cathedral. Come dressed already as there isn't space to change. It's a lovely moving service so do sign up.

Durufle concert ticket sales

Ticket sales totalled £2,523 which equates to around 154 people once students, children and complementary ticket-holders are included. This looked very respectable on the night but unfortunately won't quite cover the costs of putting on the concert.

Sad news

Former member David Whitworth died on 29th October at the age of 88. David was a very fine first bass and it was a great loss to the Chorus when he had to retire because of ill health. The funeral will take place at Amber Valley Memorial Park and Crematorium on Tuesday 28 November at 11 am to be followed by a thanksgiving service at Bakewell Methodist Church at 1;00 pm. All who knew David are welcome to attend.

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](#) ((user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

- Monday 20 November 2023, 7pm Birkdale School, carols with Black Dyke Band (recording session for their new Christmas CD). **All three prior rehearsals compulsory.**
- Tuesday 21 November 2023 – AGM at 8.30 followed by cheese and wine social
- Thursday 7 December 2023 carols at Bents Green School Ringinglow Rd (elective) 2.30pm for half an hour. Rachel Copley will conduct, Nigel Gyte will play. Bright Xmas garb.
- Sunday 10 December 2023: St Luke's Carol Service (elective), Sheffield cathedral 2pm Full concert dress
- Saturday 16 December 2023 Christmas Concert with Black Dyke Band, Petroc Trelawny presenter. SICS. One concert, 2.30pm. Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 12 December 2023. Compulsory on-the-day rehearsal to be confirmed but probably 12.00 to 13.30.
- Saturday 16 March 2024, Victoria Hall, self-funded; works by Gustav Holst and Imogen Holst, Britten and Grace Williams. Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 12 March 2024. Compulsory on-the-day rehearsal to be confirmed but probably 14.00 to 17.00
- Saturday 4th May 2024 from 10.30 to 12.30, 2pm to 4pm, performance 5-6pm – Come and Sing event, Parts 1 and 2 of Haydn's *Creation* at the Upper Chapel on Norfolk Street, S1 2JD. Compulsory piano rehearsal yet to be confirmed.
- Friday 21 June 2024 Mozart *Requiem*, Cadogan Hall London (arranged by IMG). Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 18 June 2024
- Saturday 22 June 2024– Mozart Requiem with Flanders Symphony Orchestra. SICS. Also, Mozart *Don Giovanni*: Overture and Beethoven Symphony No.8. Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 18 June 2024. Compulsory on-the-day rehearsal to be confirmed but probably 14.00 to 17.00
- Sunday 23 June 2024 Mozart *Requiem*, Usher Hall Edinburgh (arranged by IMG) Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 18 June 2024
- 10 to 17 July 2024 Faure *Requiem*, mini tour in France (elective)
- Friday 21 to Sunday 23 March 2025 – Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend. SPC may be invited to collaborate with other CS members for the finale concert on the Sunday.
- Saturday 21 June 2025 Mahler Symphony No 8, Chester Cathedral, Wrexham Symphony Orchestra. SADLY, THIS CONCERT HAS HAD TO BE CANCELLED.

Darius concerts

- Monday 27 Nov, 1.15pm, St Anne's Cathedral, part of the [Leeds Town Hall recital series](#)

Full list and details at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/concerts/concerts-2023.html>

Reminder - Alto 2 Voice Rep

Kate Reece, who has been a terrific Voice Rep for the second altos for many years, is stepping down from the role, so we are looking for someone from the alto section to take over. The main responsibility involves giving folk a gentle nudge if it looks like their attendance might put their eligibility to sing in a concert at risk, and advising people eg if health or circumstances are posing difficulties for them and their involvement in Chorus activities. If you think you might be able to help in this way, please talk to Kate in the first instance (contact details below).

Grateful and heartfelt thanks to Kate for helping the Chorus so diligently and effectively in this way for so many years. You're a star!

Singing opportunities

- *Messiah* with Bakewell Choral Society, Saturday 16th March at Bakewell Parish Church. Cost for term £35 (never sung with BCS before) or £50 (have sung before). Rehearsals at Bakewell Methodist Church on Mon 7.15pm to 9.30pm, starting Mon 8 Jan 2024.

- Singing course in Nottingham <https://www.music-for-everyone.org/event/nfc-singing-course/>
- Choral retreats at Cambridge: <https://cambridgechoral.com>

A list of wider singing opportunities, compiled by Phil Harrison and provided by John Morgan, is on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Information / Singing Opportunities](#) (user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

What's On

- Sat 16 Dec 7.30pm Christmas Concert Bakewell Choral Society, Thornbridge Hall Ashford in the Water DE45 1NZ. Tickets £15 from www.thornbridgehall.co.uk

Classical Sheffield's What's On page tells you which classical concerts are scheduled around Sheffield: <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events>

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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Chair Jo Briddock chairman@sheffieldphil.org or JoanneBriddock@sheffieldphil.org

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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

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