

New: audition after rehearsal so please leave quickly and quietly; Durufle concert feedback; last call for Mozart Requiem tour numbers

Rehearsals

Our next rehearsal on Tuesday 07 November 2023 will be the second of the three compulsory rehearsals for the carols recording and we'll be at King Edward's Upper School at 7pm with Darius. Tenors and basses downstairs, sops and altos avoid the area with no lights. The code for the pedestrian gate is 7816. Remember that cars must be removed before 9.15. **Please remember to sign in at the laptop, or manual sheet if you don't have a card or are late.**

Please note that there's a tenor audition at the end of the rehearsal so please leave quickly and quietly so those involved can get away before they get locked out!

Darius will not be issuing a rehearsal schedule for this term, rehearsals are:

- 31 Oct, 7 and 14 November - for the recording session with Black Dyke Band on Monday 20 November – **please note that all three are compulsory.**
- 21 and 28 November and 5 and 12 December - for the Christmas carol concert.

Darius 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 for Tuesday

If you haven't already, please return your copies of the music we sang at St Mark's – and **please, please** rub out your markings - even with helpers it takes our Librarians the best part of an evening to do it for members who haven't.

Please **bring your copy of Carols for Choirs**. Since we use this book every year and it's difficult to hire copies, it's a big help for members to buy their own – and most have done so. Alan and Rosemary Anderson, our Librarians, have purchased a number of copies and these will be on sale to newer members at rehearsals.

Other music for the recording will be available on Tuesday, hire price £1.

Recordings and rehearsal tracks are on the website 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.

Durufle concert feedback

Darius: *'A huge thanks to all of you for a really inspiring performance on Saturday. The level of concentration and expression you all brought to the occasion meant that every piece was better than it had been in any of the rehearsals, which isn't always the case! And the dynamic range was remarkable - I thought the roof was going to come off in the Hosanna! Maggie and Simon's*

performances made the whole thing extra special, and of course a particular thanks to Rachel for her wonderful setting and Cathy for the poem which inspired so much music-making. PS - I have forgiven the basses who came in early....see you all next week!

Maggie: 'I wonder if you would mind sending my congratulations to the choir for a wonderful concert on Saturday. It is always a joy to come over to Sheffield to be with the SPC, and even more so on Saturday. I don't mean to sound pompous - but I was so proud of you all. Your collective musical - and vocal - commitment to the performance was so evident. You all followed Darius's masterful directions with aplomb and confidence. The whole concert was inspiring.

On a personal note, I would just like to say a big thank you to you all, for your support and friendship. SPC is a very talented group of musicians, and I appreciate all the thoughtful help and care I received on Saturday. It meant a lot to me that I was singing with you all as part of your concert. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you in November! Best wishes, Maggie'

Simon Turner (cellist): "I really enjoyed it and felt there was a very special atmosphere in the church - of excitement and of real attentive listening. All credit to the choir! Hope the rest of your season goes well and thanks again for asking me"

Neil Taylor (organist): "I thought it was a really good concert, and I enjoyed being with you all again, as always. See you at Christmas!"

Nigel Gyte: 'I simply HAD to let you know how much I loved last night's concert. I thought the programme was fabulous, but it was the 'sound' of the chorus which made such an impression on me. What a fantastic acoustical space St Mark's is, and Darius drew such beautiful singing from everyone, fully exploiting what was possible in the venue. The range of dynamics was extremely impressive. Maggie was wonderful, especially in the climactic moments of her movement. She was beautifully supported by Simon. Neil was absolutely brilliant, as he always is! CONGRATULATIONS to Darius, the SPC and all involved with this super-duper event. With my love and warmest best wishes to everyone. Nigel (Gyte)'

Christine Pennington (soprano) 'I'd like to.....say I was privileged to be in the audience last night and it was a brilliant concert. Particular highlight was Darius holding the last note of the Svyati for so long and the choir as one did not flinch, not a blink! Singing throughout was great especially in the Durufle. Well done to everyone and pleased to see such a good attendance. Also lovely for me to see everyone and catch up! See you all soon, Christine Pennington'

Last call for Mozart Requiem tour numbers

Darius needs to know the numbers for the mini-tour of Mozart's *Requiem* so if you haven't already, please tick against the dates you can sing on the list provided at rehearsal. Darius is hoping that plenty of members will sing in London and Edinburgh as well as Sheffield, so that we don't have to seek extra singers from other choirs.

- Fri 21 June 2024 Cadogan Hall London; **free coach there and back** (we'll be back quite late as it's an evening concert)
- Sat 22 June 2024 Sheffield City Hall
- Sun 23 June 2024 Usher Hall Edinburgh, **free coach there and back** (afternoon performance)

Reminder – AGM

The 87th AGM is on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 8.30pm, after a shortened rehearsal. The formal notice and papers will be distributed by email on 06 November 2023 at the latest.

There are vacancies on the committee, for Vice Chair and one Members' Rep.

- The Vice Chair stands in for the Chair if she's absent; the role is not a Chair-Designate.
- Member Reps represent member views at committee meetings, a completely different and separate role from that of Voice Reps, who don't attend committee meetings.

Please note that anyone who has been a member of the Chorus for a year or more may stand for any of the roles, whether vacant or not. Please consider offering your services if you can.

Nomination forms will be available at rehearsal; these should be completed and submitted to Anne Adams by Tuesday 7 November if possible, or by Tuesday 14 November at the latest.

Nominees must acquire and keep email confirmation that the two members listed have agreed to propose and second their nomination. **Please note that no member can propose/second more than one nominee, and nominees must check this before accepting their proposer and seconder.**

There'll be the customary wine and cheese social after the AGM. Social Events Officer Helen Kirk is organising a collection to cover the cost of the wine and cheese, so please contribute if you haven't already - £3 is recommended. Please tell Helen if you can help on the night.

Trustees seeking re-election: Chair Jo Briddock, Finance Officer Jane Parkin, Administrator Anne Adams, Membership Officer Marianne Grayson, Librarian Alan Anderson, New Members Officer Sally Turnbull, Rehearsals & Events Officer Jim Monach, Social Events Officer Helen Kirk, Education & Outreach Officer Georgina Hulse, Transport Officer Paul Duffield, Minutes Secretary Kathy Towers, Member Rep Christine Pennington (Year 2 of 3), Member Rep Patrick Callaghan (Year 2 of 3), Member Rep Jenny Swann (Year 2 of 3).

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!

Reminder - Volunteer accompanist

We are looking for a volunteer to play the piano in the extremely unlikely event that both Rachel and Darius are unexpectedly absent for a rehearsal. If you think you could play for us under such circumstances please speak to Anne Adams or Jim Monach.

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
- *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. 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

- Mon 27 Nov 1.15pm, Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral

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

Singing opportunities

- 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

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

MD Darius Battiwalla DariusBattiwalla@sheffieldphil.org

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

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org or AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

Membership Officer Marianne Grayson MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org

Finance Officer Jane Parkin JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org or accounts@sheffieldphil.org

Rehearsal and Events Officer Jim Monach JimMonach@sheffieldphil.org

New Members Officer Sally Turnbull SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org

Social Events Officer Helen Kirk HelenKirk@sheffieldphil.org

Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson alananderson@sheffieldphil.org

Education & Outreach Officer Georgina Hulse GeorginaHulse@sheffieldphil.org

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S1 Voice Rep Jacqui Amos JacquiAmos@sheffieldphil.org

S2 Voice Rep Els Pearse ElsPearse@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/>