

NEW / IMPORTANT ITEMS (scroll down for further details)

- **TUESDAY'S COMPULSORY REHEARSAL IS AT ST MARK'S**
- **Concert arrangements**
- **No rehearsals 26 March or 2 April (Easter break)**
- **PLEASE publicise the concert via social media, email and paper flyers (two attachments)**
- **Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 March 2024**
- **Don't forget to use special email to tell SPC about change of address, telephone or email (see bottom of every update)**

Next rehearsal is the compulsory on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at St Mark's Church

Our next rehearsal is the compulsory piano rehearsal for those performing on 16th, on Tuesday 12 March at 7pm, in St Mark's Church, Broomfield Road, S10 2SE. Please don't come if you're not singing in the concert – or don't sing if you can't bear not to come. **PLEASE DON'T ARRIVE BEFORE 6.35**, and please make sure you close all doors behind you as you pass through them, to keep the heat in.

Church accessible from 6.35pm, parking in the local streets, not at King Edward's. Buses from across the city go to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital across the road; these include the H1, 2, 6, 10/10a, 120, 181, 271 and X2. Nearest tram stop is University, a 10-minute walk away.

Our next rehearsal on 19 March will be at Heeley Hall, Birkdale. **There will be no rehearsals on 26 March or 2 April, due to the Easter break.**

Updated rehearsal notes and divisi for *Ave Maris Stella* are on the website **along with links to the *Ave Maris Stella* rehearsal tracks created by Georgina Hulse**, recordings for the pieces we are singing in March, and article about Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#).

Please check the 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.

Arrangements for the concert on Saturday 16 March 2024 (attachment)

We may need a few volunteers to show folk to their seats; please see Jim Monach or Anne Adams. Helen Kirk may also request help with refreshments, and Jim with arranging chairs.

The arrangements listed below are also attached and on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#)

Concert running order:

- Britten: *Rejoice in the Lamb*
 - Imogen Holst: *Three Psalms*
- Interval
- Grace Williams: *Ave Maris Stella*
 - Gustav Holst: *St Paul's Suite* (orchestra only)
 - Gustav Holst: *Two Psalms*

Venue is the Victoria Hall Sheffield; see <https://www.victoriahallsheffield.org/visit> For public transport see <https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>

Parking Street or municipal parking only.

Compulsory on-the-day rehearsal 14.30; **please be in your seats by 14.20 at the latest.**

Entry and initial registration Enter via the main front door NO EARLIER THAN 13.45 and register at the desk inside.

Seating plan Copies may be available on the day; please follow verbal instructions from Jim and /or his helpers. Some members will be on the platform, others on the floor, but whichever level you choose please sit so that taller people are behind shorter ones, or to the outside edges, so sight lines are good for everyone - and be prepared to move if asked, to make sight lines better.

Signing out and back in Please sign out if you leave to have tea after the rehearsal, and back in again on your return.

Changing Chorus may leave their bags in the prayer room adjacent to the main hall. However, please come already changed as this room has glass walls so isn't suitable for changing. Anyone who does need to change please use the toilets. Apologies but the hire costs for extra rooms were far too high! Orchestra, tenor, organist and Darius will be upstairs in the Committee room - there's a lift in the foyer.

Toilets are in the foyer, ladies on the same side as the kitchen hatch, men on the other side. There are no toilets on the balcony. Accessible toilet next to the serving hatch in the foyer.

Dress All black, women long sleeved tops, full length trousers or skirts, gold sash, men black shirts and black jacket (optional eg if cold). See [Members Area / Stage procedure and dress code](#) for more details - it would be a tragedy if you couldn't sing because of the dress code.

No after-shave or perfume to avoid breathing problems for others, especially those with allergies.

Getting on stage for the concert Drift on any time from 30 mins before the concert, and be in your seat no later than 19.20. Sit where you were for the rehearsal - try not to sit in the middle if you know you will be arriving for the concert at the last minute. Please don't wave at the audience. No drinks on stage please.

Interval 20 mins, perhaps a little longer but not much. It may be difficult for everyone who wants a drink at the interval to get one, so please bring a flask if you can, rather than queuing up with the audience. There isn't a lot of space, and the queue may cut across the queue for the ladies. Many thanks for your help with this tricky issue. Please keep your eyes peeled and be back in your seat before the start of the second half.

Music All in black folders for the first part and leave on your seat during the interval, if you yourself leave. Thin black elastic wound round the spine holds larger sheets better than the cords provided and you can't see them from the audience.

Stage etiquette Stand when the conductor comes on, as the band does. Stay still with folders open when the piece ends. Close and lower folders altogether when the applause starts, folders in right arm down at side. Do not applaud whilst standing. Sit when the conductor leaves, stand when they ask us to do so. Sit when they leave again. Only applaud when seated. See [Members Area / Stage procedure and dress code](#)

Please stick to the prescribed areas so that we don't compromise the Victoria Hall's fire safety arrangements. Many thanks.

Health and safety and evacuation information

- Do not attend if you have symptoms of Covid, flu, a heavy cold or uncontrollable cough

- Please take your own drinks but don't take them on stage during the concert
- Don't use breakable vessels; store and carry hot drinks safely
- Keep belongings out of thoroughfares, especially in restricted areas
- Take care when using stairs and steps
- In the event of an emergency, leave as directed in an orderly fashion, using the 'Emergency EXIT' signs as reference. Do not try to retrieve belongings. Gather outside the Crucible stage door, opposite the Victoria Hall main doors on Norfolk Street. The Chorus attendance register will be used to check that there is no-one left in the building.

Fewer than 40 tickets sold – please promote the concert! (two attachments)

Less than a week before the Victoria Hall concert in March – PLEASE spread the word to friends and family via social media using the attached e-flyer. Tickets on sale (no booking fee) at rehearsals, £18; pay in cash, by cheque or by card. Tickets online (booking fee payable) at <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/599238#tickets> and on the door on the night.

Tickets sold for the Come and Sing Creation are 18 'singer' tickets, plus 10 free tickets for the performance at 5pm – note that booking is essential even though tickets are free, as seats are limited and we have a VIP party attending. Tickets available online via the Chorus website at <https://sheffieldphil.org/home/concerts/current-season/>.

Unfortunately we can't provide tickets for the Mozart *Requiem* concert at rehearsals, get these online via the Chorus website at <https://sheffieldphil.org/home/concerts/current-season/>. **Don't forget that people can book using the City Hall's group offer which is a substantial reduction – just £10 per ticket if 10 are booked as a group, no matter where they sit!**

Royal Philharmonic Society Awards

President Rachel Copley, Chair Jo Briddock and Administrator Anne Adams had a wonderful evening at the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards evening at the Royal Northern College of Music last Tuesday. Unfortunately the Chorus was pipped to the award by Derwent Brass, but each of the four shortlisted groups gained over 1,000 votes, with just over 5,000 overall, so it was quite close, and there was some great publicity for the Chorus and for Classical Sheffield.

For more see https://royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk/rps_today/news/2024-rps-awards-winners-announced The evening was broadcast in full on BBC Radio 3, and you can listen on BBC Sounds or on BBC i-Player. You can also watch a video of the Awards evening from Tuesday 12 March 2024 for a month on the RPS website <https://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk/> Rachel prepared a super speech in case we won, which will be attached to the next update.

The nomination is very prestigious – their website states 'recognition by the RPS is a guarantee of outstanding musical achievement' and we are advised to continue using 'shortlisted for the 2024 Royal Philharmonic Society Inspiration Award' on our website – so of course we will do!

Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 March 2024

If you'd like to raise anything at the up-coming committee meeting please see Member Reps sopranos Jenny Swann or Christine Pennington, or tenor Patrick Callaghan. The minutes of committee meetings are on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Official Documents / Committee Minutes](#)

Rehearsal – general information

Many thanks for your consideration regarding mobile 'phone interruptions and distractions. Please nudge the person next to you if they get out their mobile during the rehearsal; it's okay in emergencies of course but please leave the room. Many thanks.

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).

Music

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

Music folders with up-to-date logo 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 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](#) ((user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

- Saturday 16 March 2024 7.30pm, 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 14.30 to 17.30.
- 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. VIPs from Bochum and City Council will attend.
- Friday 21 June 2024 Mozart *Requiem*, Cadogan Hall London. Free coach provided. Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 18 June 2024
- Saturday 22 June 2024 7pm Mozart *Requiem* Sheffield City Hall 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. Free coach provided. Compulsory piano rehearsal Tue 18 June 2024
- *11 to 17 July 2024 Faure Requiem, mini tour in France (elective)*
- TO BE CONFIRMED: Friday 15 November 2024, concert at City Hall SICS*
- Saturday in December 2024, Christmas Carol Concert at City Hall SICS*
- Sunday 23 March 2025, final concert of the Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend, Young Composer Competition winner(s), two newly-commissioned works and Faure *Requiem* (self funded, part-sponsored).
- TO BE CONFIRMED: Sunday 8 June 2025 concert at City Hall SICS*

*SICS = concert is part of the Sheffield International Concert Season

Darius concerts

Fri 22 Mar & Sat 23 Mar 7pm Heptonstall Church Silent Film Improvisation, Mon 8 Apr 1.15pm Leeds cathedral, Sat 27 Apr 6pm Bridlington Priory, Monday 6 May, 11am Blackburn Cathedral

Full list and details on Darius's website at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/index.html>

Reminder - Chris Wiltshire is holding a Schubertathon 8 and 9 June 2024

Chris Wiltshire, husband of former member Pat Wiltshire who died in June 2023, is holding a fund-raising event in the summer; this is forward notice so you can plan your diaries. Chris will play all Schuberts' completed piano sonatas plus his two sets of Impromptus and the *Moments Musicaux*, in a Schubertathon from 8am to 8pm on June 8th and June 9th at his home, 27 Hallam Grange Rise, to raise money for Alzheimers Research. The sound of his Steinway grand will easily reach people at the bottom of the garden through the open doors. He's chosen Schubert as it's the last music to which Pat responded despite her dementia – she smiled and said "That was lovely". June 8th will be the second anniversary of her death. The event will be supported by the Alzheimers Society and will all be informal with refreshments provided - a bit like a garden party with live classical music!

Singing opportunities

- Bob Chilcott singing workshop on Saturday May 11th in Ilkley. Includes excerpts from *A Little Jazz Mass*, The Bob Chilcott Songbook and *Irish Blessing*. There's also the opportunity to join Cantores Olicanae for *A Little Jazz Mass* on Saturday June 15th at St Margaret's Church, Ilkley, 7.30pm. For details see <http://www.cantoresolicanae.org.uk>
- Pennine Spring Music Festival 27 May to 1 June 2024. A week's singing in Heptonstall, Calderdale, including Lili Boulanger's *Hymne au Soleil* and Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, Apply on-line at <http://www.penninespringmusic.co.uk/join-us/>. There are bursaries to help young singers to take part; email: penninespringmusic@gmail.com for details.
- The Music Summer School and Festival (27th July to 10th August 2024) is offering £50 to any choir named, if booked before 1 March 2024. Courses available in choral singing, chamber choir, vocal ensembles, opera, song and much more. Tutors include Stile Antico, Andrew Griffiths, Anna Tilbrook, James Gilchrist, Dame Jane Glover, Ruby Hughes, Sarah Gabriel, Gavin Roberts, Pippa Dames Longworth. See www.mssf.org.uk for details.

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). The latest version features our own Come and Sing concert in the Upper Chapel in May – thanks for arranging this John!

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](#) User name member password 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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New Members Officer Sally Turnbull SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org

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Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson alananderson@sheffieldphil.org

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S1 Voice Rep Katrina Hulse KatrinaHulse@sheffieldphil.org

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S2 Voice Rep Els Pearse ElsPearse@sheffieldphil.org

A1 Voice Rep Nerissa Kisdon NerissaKisdon@sheffieldphil.org

A2 Voice Rep Jane Baker [Jane Baker@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JaneBaker@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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