

Final Arrangements for Boulanger concert Sheffield City Hall 7pm Friday 15 Nov 2024

Venue is Sheffield City Hall, Barkers Pool, Sheffield, S1 2JA.

Getting there - see <https://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk/plan-your-visit/directions> and <https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/> for public transport

Programme: DEBUSSY Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune (Halle), BOULANGER Psalm 130: De Profundis (SPC, Halle, Darius on organ) Interval. SAINT-SAËNS Fantaisie in Eb major for organ (Darius) SAINT-SAËNS Symphony No.3, "Organ" (Halle, Darius) Please stay to support Darius for this, on the platform!

Parking in town: There's a 35% discount at the QPark on Rockingham Street if booked in advance online, see <https://www.sheffieldcityhall.co.uk/Q-Park-Rockingham-Street>

Entry and initial registration: Enter via the main front doors, sign in on the sheets provided. These will be transferred to the stage door for sign-outs after the initial entry, so if you arrive late please enter and sign in via the Stage Door (down the steps at the back of the hall). Wrist bands will be supplied, please wear until after the concert. Instruction for how to get to the dressing rooms are lower down this page. Be on the look-out for newer members who look lost, and for members of the Halle Chorus who are joining us and who may not have sung at the City Hall before.

On-the-day rehearsal: 15.45 to 17.15. There's an orchestral rehearsal before we join them so don't try to go on stage earlier than 15.30; please enter quietly once the orchestra rehearsal is over and be in your seats by 15.40. Follow the seating plan and/or instructions re voice parts, with tall people behind and to the edges and noting semi-chorus positions. Your seat at rehearsal is your seat for the concert so make a note! NB Remember the very dry acoustic and sing out and with confidence even though it may sound as though you're the only one doing so. Above all look up as much as possible - heads in copies looks and sounds unprofessional and is not what we want folk to remember about us.

Concert start time: 19.00

Entry onto and off stage: Drift on in your own time, making sure you are in your seat by 18.55 at the latest. File off at the interval, leading off from the back row first with people from organ seats intermingling. Alternatively stay in your seat, as you prefer.

Second half: Members are asked to stay to support Darius and the Halle for the second half, when we will have the privilege of forming a special audience for his organ pieces on the platform; please fill the choir seats from the front row backwards, so we don't leave gaps. Be back for the second half 5 minutes before it starts.

Seating plan: Download the plan from the Members Area of the Chorus website at <https://sheffieldphil.org/one-of-us/concert-arrangements/> A few copies will be available on the day; please print your own copy if you can, and take careful note of the seating as it's very different from how we are usually arranged, and there won't be a lot of time to find seats before we start at 15.45 as the orchestra rehearsal starts at 14.00 and we can't go on stage any earlier than 15.30. If there are last-minute changes, please follow verbal instructions.

Signing out and back in: Please sign out AT STAGE DOOR if you leave after rehearsal, and back in again on return, on the choir sheets NOT City Hall sheets.

Dress code: for men is black shirts and trousers, no tie, PLUS black jackets (suit jacket, formal jacket or DJ/evening suit jacket, whichever you have, as long as it's black). Jackets are usually optional but wearing them on this occasion will ensure SPC and Halle men match the orchestra. Women long sleeved black tops and formal long skirts or trousers as usual – but NO SASHES. Check out further details at [Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#).

Toilets: at basement level, also a set on the ground floor, ie Stage Door level.

Disabled toilet: on corridor beyond the VIP dressing rooms (just before the alto/bass stairs), or in DR4.

Dressing rooms: North and South halls in the basement. To get there from the main entrance, take the lift from the foyer all the way to the bottom. Or walk along the curved corridor behind the auditorium in the direction of the stage, then through the double doors. Continue forwards, passing through three sets of double doors to reach the stairs going down to the basement. To get to there from the Stage Door, go through the double doors just past the stairs and carry straight on through another two sets of double

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doors until you reach the stairs down to the basement. Ask at the stage door if you need the lift from the Stage Door entrance.

Dressings room - wheelchair and limited mobility: DR 4 - up the stairs nearest the top of the basement staircase; follow signs or ask at the Stage Door. Note that the stair climber will be used on the stairs to this dressing room, be mindful and stay clear when it's being used - either wait or use the other stairs and cross in front of the organ.

Getting on stage: sopranos and some altos (see seating plan) go up the stairs nearest the top of the basement staircase. Other altos, tenors and basses use the stairs nearest the Stage Door. If your mobility is not what it might be, use whichever stairs are most convenient and cross to the other side in front of the organ.

While on stage: please look after your water bottle during the rehearsal. Someone has dropped their bottle under the risers at the last THREE concert rehearsals and it's really difficult for the City Hall staff to crawl under the encased scaffolding to retrieve them, it's embarrassing having to repeatedly ask them.

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

Music: in SPC black folders please.

Stage etiquette: Make sure you are in your seat by 18.55. If you're seated near the stage entrance, please keep an eye on the doors and make sure they are closed with curtain drawn shut to keep out backstage noise.

- In first half stand when conductor signals, open folders once standing.
- Keep still once piece ends, scores open until applause begins, then close them 'as one', tucking them under right arm with arm down at your side.
- Do not applaud while standing – we are being applauded along with the other performers.
- Sit down as one when the conductor leaves the stage.
- Stay seated when soloists and conductor return on stage for further applause, we can join in the applause now, scores on knees.
- Stand if the conductor asks us to, and do not applaud while standing. Sit again when the conductor leaves the stage.
- File out as quickly as you can from back row, intermingling with people in the organ seats, moving as quickly as possible down the stairs and along corridors - please don't cause a blockage (stay in your seat if you prefer).
- Stay still throughout the second half, we will form an important part of the audience on show throughout, please don't make distracting movements.

Full details (though not adjusted for this concert) at [Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#)

Packed tea, refreshments: Packed meals are okay, eat in the dressing rooms, be tidy, put any chairs etc back where you found them and remove any rubbish.

Pre-concert talk: 18.00, featuring our conductor. Please feel free to listen from the auditorium or the organ seats NOT CHORUS RISERS PLEASE due to the very loud banging and clanking noise they make as we climb down the steps!

Health and safety 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
- Please stick to the prescribed areas so that we don't compromise the City Hall's safety arrangements.
- **Evacuation instructions:** In the event of an emergency, a continuous alarm will be sounded, and we will be directed out to the war memorial on Barker's Pool (fire) or to Devonshire Green (bomb). Follow the directions of marshals and leave in an orderly fashion. Do not try to retrieve belongings.