

## NEW / IMPORTANT ITEMS (scroll down for further details)

- **Next rehearsal 12 Nov St Andrew's Psalter Lane, meet at the pub after, see below**
- **Recording of last week's rehearsal, rehearsal tracks and notes**
- **Concert arrangements (below and attachment)**
- **Unidentifiable subscription payments**
- **New details regarding entry to Birkdale from 19 November**
- **Volunteers please - to act as our (rarely needed) First Aiders**
- **Volunteer Musician Wanted to Support People Seeking Sanctuary (attachment)**
- **PLEASE use the special email to tell SPC about change of address, telephone or email (see bottom of every update)**

### **Next rehearsal is on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at St Andrew's Psalter Lane**

The next rehearsal is on Tuesday 12 November at St Andrew's Church, Psalter Lane Sheffield S11 8YL. This will be the final rehearsal before the Boulanger concert. Please arrive early enough to collect a copy of the Barnsley Carol; to ensure a prompt start, the hire charge won't be collected until next week.

- For directions to St Andrew's see <https://www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk/about-us/how-to-find-us/>
- There's plenty of free street parking and off-road parking directly in front of the church, including disabled parking; see map at the link above. Take bikes into the entrance area.
- Fully accessible. Under floor heating.
- Evacuation procedure: Leave via the nearest Fire Exit - follow 'Running-Man' signs. Assembly Point is grass area adjacent to Cherry Tree Road. Keep entrances and car park clear for the Fire Brigade.
- There's a pub 2 minutes' walk from the church and members are invited to meet for a drink after rehearsal, at the Stag's Head on Psalter Lane. New members particularly welcome!
- The church is hosting its annual classical music festival 14-17 Nov, see [Music Festival](#)

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.

**Recording of conductor rehearsal held last week.** This was circulated by separate email and is on YouTube at [Boulanger Conductor Rehearsal](#) and on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the music](#) along with rehearsal tracks, rehearsal notes and recordings.

### **Boulanger Concert arrangements**

Final arrangements for the concert are below and attached as a pdf that you can print out. They are also on the website at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#)

**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:** Attached, or 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 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.

**Unidentifiable subscription payments**

Thanks to all who have paid and completed both membership form and the diversity survey. Unfortunately, a number of members failed to enter the reference details in the manner requested in the update and on the form, and Jane is having great difficulties identifying who they are. **PLEASE use the reference Family name and Chorus number eg parkin403**

Please pay asap if you still haven't - you don't want to risk not being able to sing in the Christmas concert, which is on the cards without a firm arrangement with Jane. The online form, with full details of how to pay, is at <https://forms.office.com/e/shkpt7HiNV> If you're struggling to pay, please contact Jane on [accounts@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:accounts@sheffieldphil.org).

At the end of the form, you are invited to complete a survey to show what our diversity profile looks like. Note that questions and responses are in a separate link and are anonymous, with 'prefer not to say' options. If you've paid but missed the survey and want to complete it, ask Marianne for the link.

**New details regarding entry to Birkdale from 19 November**

SPC is responsible for site security during our rehearsals, so a new procedure will apply from Tuesday 19 November. Entry doors will be locked at 19.10 by Sally, who has kindly offered to guard the doors until then, so anyone who arrives after that will need to use the emergency doors directly into the hall.

The only access is via the Oakholme Road gates; turn left and walk along the side of the hall to the emergency doors, which we will keep open (or someone inside will open for you).

### **Volunteers please - to act as our (very rarely needed) First Aiders**

The Chorus needs two more volunteers to join soprano Imelda Murphy as our First Aider. Many thanks to soprano Els Pearse who is stepping down from this role after valuable service for the last few years. Volunteers would need to have an up-to-date qualification. It's worth stressing that although we must have someone willing to act in this role if the need arises, it has very rarely done so, thank goodness! Please see either Jo Briddock or Imelda Murphy if you are willing to take on this role. Thank you.

### **Volunteer Musician Wanted to Support People Seeking Sanctuary (attachment)**

Deadline for applications Monday 16th December. The support group is looking for an experienced group worker who plays an easily portable instrument and is able to improvise, has a good knowledge of classical music and can spare 2 ½ - 2 ¾ hours per fortnight. The project aims to facilitate access to classical music for refugees, asylum-seekers and other vulnerable migrants. See the attached for further details, or email [creativeconnectionssheffield@gmail.com](mailto:creativeconnectionssheffield@gmail.com)

### **Rehearsal schedule**

Details are in Diary dates (below) and on the Chorus website at Members Area / Diary dates. Darius will upload the rehearsal schedule for the coming season in due course, at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>, there's also a link from the Chorus website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) (user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

### **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).

### **2024-25**

- *Thursday 5 December 2024, 13.45 to 14.30. Carols at Bents Green School (elective). Georgina Hulse to conduct, Nigel Gyte to accompany.*
- Saturday 14 December 2024, 2.30pm, Christmas Carol Concert with Black Dyke Band, presenter Zeb Soanes, at City Hall SICS\*. On-the-day rehearsal to be confirmed but probably 12.00 to 13.30.
- *Sunday 15 Dec 2024 St Lukes Carol Service (elective). Georgina Hulse to conduct*
- Sunday 23 March 2025, 8pm, St Marie's cathedral, final concert of the Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend: Young Composer Competition winner(s), three new works by composer Stephen Johnston (listed on our website), the Faure *Requiem* and possibly one other piece. Self funded, part-sponsored by Stephen Johnston. Compulsory conductor rehearsal on Tue 18 March 19.00 to 21.00 at St Marie's. On-the-day rehearsal in the Holden Hall next door to St Marie's, time to be arranged.
- Saturday 24 May 2025 – self funded Come and Sing in the Upper Chapel, English Anthems *Toward the Unknown Region* VW, *I Was Glad* and *Blest Pair Sirens* Parry and *Faire is the Heaven* Harris. 10.30 to 19.00. Darius conducting, Rachel Fright piano and an organist. Refreshments and cake at break time (choir donations).
- Sunday 8 June 2025 4pm, Haydn *Creation*, Matthew Hamilton and the Halle at City Hall SICS\*. Compulsory conductor and on-the-day rehearsals to be arranged.

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

### **Darius concerts**

This summer Darius played in the world premiere of James Wood's new work "*Tempestas in Memoriam*" alongside three other organists on four different organs in cathedrals in four nations. See YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-Vryei3sPI> (scroll to 15.15)

- Monday 11 November, 1.15pm Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral
- Monday 9 December, 1.15pm Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral

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

### **Reminder – Georgina's workshops**

Georgina's pre-rehearsal workshops are in the Octagon Room 18.30 to 18.55. Contact her if interested, at [georginahulse@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:georginahulse@sheffieldphil.org)

- Autumn (six workshops) September 24<sup>th</sup>; October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
- Spring (eight workshops) January 21 & 28; February 4, 11, 18 & 25; March 4 & 11
- Summer (four workshops) May 6, 13, 20 and 27

### Rehearsal tracks from Choraline

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.

### Singing opportunities

- **Sat 23rd November 2024 'Come and Sing' Handel's *Messiah*** with The Singers' Collective. St Oswald's Church, Bannerdale Road, Sheffield S7 2DL. Conductor: Rachel Atkinson Organist: Cory Lovell. Rehearsal from 15:00, performance at 18:30. Singers £10 to cover refreshments and music hire. Audience - pay as you feel donations. For more information and to register for the event email: [thesingerscollective@hotmail.com](mailto:thesingerscollective@hotmail.com)
- **Monday 16 December 2024 Come and Sing Messiah** Sheffield Bach Choir invites people to Come and Sing Messiah at St James' Church Norton. Tickets £15 including mulled wine and mince pies. [BUY TICKETS ONLINE](#)
- **Sat 25 to 26 Jan 2025 – Mozart Mass in C minor** NTU Clifton NG11 Concert 1 Feb Albert Hall Nottingham. Scores and rehearsal tracks available; optional sectional rehearsals. See <https://www.music-for-everyone.org/event/nfc-singing-course-concert> .

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). **Note Haydn's Creation with CBSO on Sunday 2 Feb 2025.**

### 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](mailto: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 & Classical Sheffield websites/passwords, WhatsApp

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.

The Chorus WhatsApp group is at **SPC Social**.

A reminder of the Classical Sheffield Member's Area: <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/about> ; the password is *moremusic*.

### Contact emails

These are all listed on the Chorus website at [Members Area / Chorus Contacts](#)

MD Darius Battiwalla [DariusBattiwalla@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:DariusBattiwalla@sheffieldphil.org)

Chair Jo Briddock [chair@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:chair@sheffieldphil.org) or [JoanneBriddock@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JoanneBriddock@sheffieldphil.org)

Vice Chair VACANCY

Administrator Anne Adams [administrator@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org) or [AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org)

Membership Officer Marianne Grayson [MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org)



Finance Officer Jane Parkin [JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org) or [accounts@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:accounts@sheffieldphil.org)

Rehearsal and Events Officer Jim Monach [JimMonach@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JimMonach@sheffieldphil.org)

New Members Officer Sally Turnbull [SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org)

Social Events Officer Helen Kirk [HelenKirk@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:HelenKirk@sheffieldphil.org)

Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson [alananderson@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:alananderson@sheffieldphil.org)

Education & Outreach Officer Georgina Hulse [GeorginaHulse@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:GeorginaHulse@sheffieldphil.org)

Member Rep on Committee: Patrick Callaghan [PatrickCallaghan@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:PatrickCallaghan@sheffieldphil.org)

Member Rep on Committee: Annie Park [AnniePark@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:AnniePark@sheffieldphil.org)

Member Rep on Committee: Jenny Swann [JennySwann@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JennySwann@sheffieldphil.org)

S1 Voice Rep Katrina Hulse [KatrinaHulse@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:KatrinaHulse@sheffieldphil.org)

S1 Voice Rep Jacqui Amos [JacquiAmos@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:JacquiAmos@sheffieldphil.org)

S2 Voice Rep Els Pearse [ElsPearse@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:ElsPearse@sheffieldphil.org)

A1 Voice Rep Nerissa Kisdon [NerissaKisdon@sheffieldphil.org](mailto: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](mailto:JimMonach@sheffieldphil.org)

B1 Voice Rep Richard Salt [RichardSalt@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:RichardSalt@sheffieldphil.org)

B2 Voice Rep Alan Lacey [AllanLacey@sheffieldphil.org](mailto: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](mailto:administrator@sheffieldphil.org). The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>