

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

- **Next rehearsal 03 Dec Birkdale School (running order attached)**
- **Final concert arrangements now on website, including dress code & programme sales**
- **Please buy raffle tickets and contribute to sherry and mince pie costs**
- **Sopranos please watch for latecomers and let them in!**
- **Basses and tenors needed for elective carols – rehearsal at 9pm on Tue (attachment)**
- **Great review of our “John Rutter Brass at Christmas” CD**
- **Rehearsal venue from 07 January 2025**
- **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 03 December 2024 at Birkdale School**

The next rehearsal is on Tuesday 03 December at Birkdale School Sheffield. It might be chilly so wrap up well! We will rehearse the music for the Christmas Carol Concert - 100 Carols for Choirs (white book) or the green and orange books. Concert running order attached, including all green or orange book page numbers. Also on the website, along with the final concert arrangements **including dress code**, at [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#). Recordings of some carols including *Sir Christemas* at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#)

Helen Kirk will be selling raffle tickets (£2, prize is a hamper) and taking donations to cover the cost of sherry and mince pies at the carol concert interval, please don't let her be out of pocket!

There'll be a short rehearsal for those singing in either of the two electives after the main rehearsal, so please put chairs away as quickly as possible. Carol singers please collect the music from the Librarians on your way in so you can start promptly at 9pm - Darius will finish 5 mins early to enable this.

**Sopranos, please can you watch for latecomers** who may be trying to get in via the fire doors at the back of the hall? An alto held up by traffic waited in vain last week and ended up going home.

- For buses to Birkdale, see <https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>.
- Street parking unless arranged with Jim; restrictions end 18.30. Take bikes into the hall.
- Access via Endcliffe Cres or Caxton Road (slightly longer walk). Once inside Endcliffe Cres gate, go through door straight ahead, or **turn left to get to the fire door if you're late** (see map at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)).

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.

### **Basses and tenors needed for elective carol singing events (attachment)!**

Basses and tenors please add your name to the lists if you can, we need a few more of you! Details below and in the attachment, which lists the carols.

- Thu 5 Dec at 13.30 (sign-in) for 14.00 at Bents Green School Ringinglow Road, S11 7TB. Jolly Christmas garb, NOT concert dress. Very little car parking so please carpool or use public transport (88 bus every 15 mins from city centre). 30 mins of singing from 100 Carols for Choirs.
- Sun 15 Dec at 1pm (rehearsal in church) for 2pm: St Luke's carol service, Sheffield cathedral. Full concert dress (men black shirts, no scarves ladies).

### **Good review of our “John Rutter Brass at Christmas” CD**

The “John Rutter Brass at Christmas” CD we recorded with Black Dyke has had a short but glowing review on Gramophone: [read the review here](#). We will be selling some for £10 in the foyer at the Christmas concert, or buy from Presto Music for just over £10 at [Brass at Christmas CD Presto music](#).

### **Rehearsal venue from 07 January 2025**

We will be moving to St Andrew's on Psalter Lane from 07 January 2025, for a number of reasons including

- Birkdale reserving the right to cancel our Tuesday hire at short notice for school events; although the church can also do this it is very unlikely that it will do so.
- News that Birkdale will be using the hall for a craft session every Tue afternoon from February onwards and won't have time to clear the tables, leaving far less space for us
- Less than satisfactory accessibility arrangements with little prospect of change, despite repeated efforts on our part.
- Extreme cold during the winter months, which affects us all but especially Rachel on the piano and all three professionals during cold-weather auditions; the issue can't easily be solved as the hire agreement forbids us from using supplementary heaters even when the school doesn't have the heating on at all. The church has under-floor heating which is very efficient and will always be deployed when it's cold.
- Occasional but serious issues with a repeating alarm which the school appears unable to solve.
- Lack of a caretaker out of (and sometimes within) term-time, leading to issues with locked doors and quite serious security responsibilities for SPC; St Andrew's church caretaker Linnea lives next door.

St Andrew's will be a little more expensive, most of which is down to the cost of the under-floor heating and hire of the piano, which belongs to and is maintained by the Sheffield Music Academy. However, Darius and the committee believe the extra cost is worth it to solve the issues listed. The chairs are usually set out in a curve, and we will likely use that arrangement to aid listening between voice parts, with the piano at front left rather than front right. Accessibility is good, including to an extra room for Georgina's workshops and Maggie's training sessions. Darius and Rachel both like the new venue and are in favour of the move.

### 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, 13.30 to 14.30. Carols at Bents Green School (elective).*
- Saturday 14 December 2024, 2.30pm, Christmas Carol Concert with Black Dyke Band, presenter Zeb Soanes, at City Hall SICS\*. On-the-day rehearsal 12.00 to 13.30.
- *Sunday 15 Dec 2024 St Lukes Carol Service (elective). Rehearsal 1pm service 2pm.*
- 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. Tickets now available online via SPC website. 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). Tickets now available online via SPC website.
- 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-Vryei3sPl> (scroll to 15.15)

- Monday 9 December, 1.15pm Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral
- Wednesday 18 December, 1pm, Bradford Cathedral

- Saturday 18 January 2025, 7.30pm, Macclesfield, Kings School
- Sunday 19 January 2025, 7.30pm, Chester, Storyhouse

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

### **Reminder - First Aid volunteers – and emergency contact numbers**

Grateful thanks to our team of volunteer First Aiders, who will care for members in the event of an accident or emergency. They are soprano Imelda Murphy and altos Mary Mallia and Kate Reece. All have (or soon will have) the relevant qualifications. Please can those members who haven't yet supplied Marianne with an emergency contact number, please do so in order to ensure that we can contact a relative or friend in the event of any emergency. Thank you.

### **Reminder - Festive concerts in Sheffield (attachment)**

Classical Sheffield has produced a list of all the concerts on offer over the festive season, attached. Do use it to plan your musical activities - and share it with family and friends.

### **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**

- **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> .
- **Sat 5 Apr 2025 – Faure *Requiem* with Gareth Malone** Leeds Minster. Rehearsals begin at 3pm followed by a performance at 6pm. Tickets via: <https://leedslieder.org.uk/whats-on/bring-and-sing-rehearsal-with-gareth-malone/>
- **Sat 5 Apr 2025 – *Elijah*** with Sheffield Oratorio Chorus, conductor Alan East. £25 unless you've been a guest with SOC before when the fee will be £53.50. Need to attend most of the 13 rehearsals from 8 Jan to 2 April, 7.30 on Wed at St Andrew's Psalter Lane. Details and apply via <https://www.sheffieldoratorio.org.uk/questsingers>

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)

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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)

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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 [JaneBaker@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/>