

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

- **Next rehearsal 10 Dec Birkdale School**
- **Volunteers to help with carol concert Christmas decorations**
- **Concert arrangements and running order (2 attachments)**
- **Message from President Rachel Copley**
- **Please buy raffle tickets and contribute to sherry and mince pie costs**
- **St Luke's carol service (attachment)**
- **Stella Jockel souvenir brochure**
- **Another good review of our "John Rutter Brass at Christmas" CD**
- **DBS-checked musicians wanted to play for asylum seekers on Christmas Day**
- **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 10 December 2024 at Birkdale School**

The next rehearsal is on Tuesday 10 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 (no sashes ladies)**, 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 at St Luke's, after the main rehearsal, **so please put chairs away and leave the hall as quickly and quietly 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. Many thanks to bass Peter Verity for acting as rehearsal accompanist!

- 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.

### **Volunteers to help with carol concert Christmas decorations**

Soprano Ann Garbett would be grateful if a few volunteers could help to take down the Christmas decorations in an orderly fashion after the concert. It is simply undoing Velcro, collecting the banners and laying them down at a collecting point, usually around the organ, without the Velcro catching where it shouldn't! It only takes a few minutes. If you could make yourself known to Ann at the next rehearsal, that would be marvellous. Thank you.

### **Arrangements for Christmas carol concert on Saturday 14 December (attachment)**

- **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:** *O come Emmanuel, O come all ye faithful, Sans Day carol, Nativity Carol, Sir Christemas, Christus Natus Est (Powell), Kalado, It came upon the midnight clear* INTERVAL. *First Nowell, Hail Smiling Morn, Sheffield Carols (Egypt/Tyre Mill), Christmas Eve Barnsley, Winter wonderland (J Cullen), Hark! The herald, O Holy Night (DB)* Possible encore: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* (in Carols for Choirs but with band intro and accompaniment)
- **Full running order:** you can download it from this link [Christmas 2024 Running Order](#)
- **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.
- **Concert programmes:** at last, at our repeated request, City Hall will sell programmes to Chorus members in the foyer as we sign in. Price £3, cash only. This is a trial and if it goes well will happen at each concert – but only if sales to Chorus members are good and **people give the correct change**. So it's now up to us!
- **On-the-day rehearsal:** 12.00 to 13.30. Please be in your seats by 11.50. Follow the seating plan and/or instructions re voice parts, with tall people behind and to the edges. 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:** 14.30
- **Entry onto and off stage:** Drift on in your own time, making sure you are in your seat by 14.25 at the very latest. File off AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE at the interval, leading off from the back row first with people from organ seats intermingling. Please be as quick as you can so the people who are the last to leave have time for sherry and mince pies in what is only a 20 minutes interval! Alternatively stay in your seat, as you prefer.
- **Interval sherry and mince pies:** These will be served along the full length of the production corridor, so please move to the farthest table if you were seated in the upper risers or on the organ seats so those behind you can get to the nearer table of goodies.
- **Second half:** Please be back for the second half 5 minutes before it starts.
- **Seating plan** Click here to download the plan: TO BE ADDED A few copies will be available on the day; please print your own copy if you can, and take careful note of the seating. 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, plus Christmassy bow tie (eg red or green or both or one that lights up if you like – switch on after the interval). Wear a black jacket if you think you'll be cold. Women long sleeved black tops and formal long skirts or trousers as usual NO SASHES. Christmassy ear-rings or necklaces (eg red or green or both, or ones that light up if you prefer -switch on after the interval) . Further details at [Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#).

- **Toilets** – on the ground floor, ie Stage Door level. or through the doors nearest the dressing rooms into the auditorium; best not to use these during the interval due to the queues!
- **Disabled toilet** – on corridor beyond the VIP dressing rooms (just before the alto/bass stairs), or in DR4.
- **Dressing rooms:** Ladies in Vincent Harris Suite and Dressing Room 3. Men in Barbirolli Suite.
- **Vincent Harris suite (ladies):** up the stairs nearest to the Stage Door, then up the next flight and on the corridor at the top. Despite the extra space in DR 3 (ask at Stage door for directions to this room) it will be extremely cramped so please arrive at the City Hall in concert dress – at least partly.
- **Barbirolli suite (men):** – through the double doors just past the Stage Door stairs and carry straight on through another set of double doors, up the stairs on the right, AND the next flight up, and onto the corridor at the top. A longer walk from the Stage Door and very cramped, please come already in concert dress if you can.
- **Dressings room – wheelchair, limited mobility and Xmas lights controllers** – 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** – altos and basses go up the stairs nearest the top of the basement staircase. Sopranos and tenors use the stairs nearest the Stage Door. If your mobility is not what you'd like it to be, use whichever stairs are most convenient at the time 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 FOUR concert rehearsals now and it's really difficult for the City Hall staff to crawl under the encased scaffolding to retrieve them.
- **No after-shave or perfume** to avoid breathing problems for others, especially those with allergies.
- **Music** – in SPC black folders please. Use thin black elastic wound round the spine to hold any over-sized sheet music – it can't be seen from the audience and is kinder to the copies than the in-built strings.
- **Stage etiquette** – Be in your seat by 14.25. If you're seated near the stage entrance, please keep an eye on the doors and make sure they are closed with the heavy curtain drawn shut to keep out backstage noise – it really does make a significant difference.

Darius and the Committee are keen that the Chorus sticks to the agreed procedures better than we have in recent concerts. We will be judged alongside the Band who always observe their approach so precisely. Jim and Anne will take the opportunity at rehearsal to answer any questions members have about what is expected. Our audience do note and comment on these things! So here's the platform procedure:

- Stand when Darius enters, opening folders once standing as we will sing without introduction.
- Keep still once the final piece in each half ends, scores still open.
- **When applause starts close folders '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

- 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 so you don't cause a blockage.
- **Packed meal, refreshments:** Packed meals are okay, eat in the dressing rooms or balcony, move when audience start to arrive and remove any rubbish.
- **Pre-concert talk:** there isn't one
- **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. **Most importantly, stay away from the basement please!**
- **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.

### Message from President Rachel Copley

*"Dear Friends, May I firstly thank you so much for your messages following my recent surgery? It has meant a lot to get them, and to boost my recovery. May I also send to you all my very best wishes for a wonderful musical end to the year at the Carol Concert? I'm sure that it will raise the roof of the City Hall, sending the people of Sheffield out rejoicing into the night. I will be with you in spirit, (and perhaps via the live stream?), and do hope that you have a wonderful Christmas, and a happy, healthy, peaceful and musical New Year. With very best wishes, Rachel."*

### St Luke's carol service (attachment)

There will be a short rehearsal from 9pm to 9.30pm for those singing at St Luke's carol service on Sunday 15 December. Thank you to those who sang at Bents Green. I'm told that it went well and that the children loved it. Thanks to Georgina for conducting and to Nigel Gyte for playing.

**Stella Jockel souvenir brochure** These will be available before and after the rehearsal from Kathy Tower or Jim in return for a donation. Please get your copy as a memento of a memorable part of the Chorus' work. Thank you.

### Another good review of our "John Rutter Brass at Christmas" CD

<https://www.whro.org/2024-12-03/celebrate-the-christmas-spirit-with-new-classical-releases-this-saturday-on-whro-fm#> The 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](#).

### DBS-checked musicians wanted to play for asylum seekers on Christmas Day

Any volunteer musicians willing to bring along their instrument to play a few pieces for 30 mins on Christmas Day please get in touch with Naomi Cohen on 07521 944 567 as soon as possible.

### 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

- 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 - 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 which were listed in last week's update. 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.

## 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/guestsingers>

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**.

### 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 [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/>