

Apologies to anyone who receives this email twice. I am using both methods of sending - just in case! It will be on the website as well, of course.

NEW / IMPORTANT ITEMS (scroll down for further details)

- **Next rehearsal 21 January 2025 St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield**
- **Georgina's workshops starting**
- **Rehearsal schedule is ready**
- **Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Survey outcomes (attachment)**
- **Deputy Safeguarding Officer – volunteer required**
- **AGM minutes etc**
- **Vocal Workshop with Marcus Farnsworth 1 March Millhouses**
- **Sing Faure *Requiem* Saturday 29 Mar Bakewell Parish Church**
- **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 21 January 2025 at St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield

The next rehearsal is on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield. It should be lovely and warm. We will continue rehearsing for the March 23 Classical Sheffield concert in St Marie's so please bring your Faure *Requiem*, the Finzi (distributed last week) and the two pieces by Stephen Johnson that were distributed before Christmas. Music will be available for those who were absent last week so please bring some pound coins!

Georgina's pre-rehearsal workshops will start on Tuesday 21 January, probably in the room used by Maggie last week, which is through the doors at the front of church, forwards along the corridor to the room at the end. Contact her if interested. January 21 & 28; February 4, 11, 18 & 25; March 4 & 11

Please return your Christmas music if you haven't already - with markings rubbed out – including music for the two electives. **But don't hand in the two by Stephen Johnson** – we haven't sung them yet!

- For buses to St Andrew's, see <https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>.
- Car parking spaces available **by arrangement with Jim Monach only**
- Street parking for everyone else. Take bikes into the foyer.
- Toilets at front of church, through doors on either side, follow signs. Accessible toilet in the foyer.
- See map of the area at on the website, Members Area, Rehearsals

Recordings of some of the music for the season is at Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music (user name member password M4hler8D@rius22).

All members are welcome to congregate in The Stag after rehearsal, only a short walk from St Andrew's. New members are particularly welcome so come along for a drink and a good natter.

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.

Rehearsal schedule

Details are in Diary dates (below) and on the Chorus website at Members Area / Diary dates.

Darius has uploaded the rehearsal schedule at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>, there's also a link from the members area of the Chorus website (in Rehearsals).

Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Survey outcomes

Many thanks to all those members who responded to the survey, the outcomes of which are attached. Almost all comments made were positive, so it's clear that of those responding the vast majority approve of SPC's attempts to measure our diversity in order to see if we need to improve it. Unsurprisingly the survey shows that our membership does not fully represent the population of Sheffield in a number of ways, most especially in terms of socio-economic group, but also in terms of age and ethnicity. There may be barriers preventing people from the unrepresented groups from applying to sing with us, or perhaps even from knowing of our existence, which we could seek to reduce or remove. As well as

missed opportunities for them, we may be missing out on some fantastic singers! The survey report is on the Chorus website, in the Members Area.

Volunteer required to act as a deputy to our Safeguarding Officer (SO)

SPC's Safeguarding Policy was reviewed at the recent trustee meeting, and trustees agreed we should seek a volunteer to act as a deputy to our Safeguarding Officer (SO), tenor Jim Monach. The person would be required in the very unlikely circumstance of a safeguarding issue arising (itself most unlikely) that Jim could not address for one reason or another.

SPC does not routinely work with children or young people, and we have had no safeguarding issues, nor is it likely that any will arise. However, UK legislation requires all organisations to set out its approach to safeguarding, hence the need for a policy which meets legislative requirements.

If any member who holds an up-to-date DBS Advanced Certificate would be willing to act as a deputy SO we would be extremely grateful. Please have a word with Jim if you feel you can help in this way.

Join the 'Choir Crawl' led by Joe Banerjee, on Friday 21 March at 6pm

Classical Sheffield plans to launch the Classical Weekend with a fantastic, open-for-all "Choir Crawl" through some favourite haunts in Sheffield, conducted by Joe Banerjee. The choir will sing a selection of choral favourites from the 16th century through to modern day from 6pm - 8pm, visiting various locations in central Sheffield. If you are interested in supporting the festival – and our lovely Joe – in this fun event, please email Rose Wilcox at classicalsheffieldcoordinator@gmail.com with: Name, Voice Part, availability for rehearsal in the city centre on the evening of Friday 14 March, availability for a run through at 5pm on Friday 21 March, any groups you already sing in.

AGM minutes

The AGM minutes, Annual Report etc are available on the Chorus website, at Members Area / Official Documents and Minutes / AGM. Committee meeting minutes are available in the same area.

Vocal Workshop with Marcus Farnsworth, 1 March Holy Trinity Millhouses

This is an exciting opportunity to work with Marcus Farnsworth, Head of Vocal Studies at Chethams – a choral singing workshop focusing on how to keep your voice 'from cradle to grave', with singer participation throughout. Refreshments available. £10 payable by BACS or QR code, see <https://www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk/>

Sing Faure *Requiem* on Saturday 29 March at Bakewell Parish Church

Guests are invited to join Bakewell Choral Society to sing the Faure *Requiem* and other pieces on Sat 29 Mar in Bakewell Parish Church. Fees for the term £35 if never sung with BCS before, £50 if you have. Rehearsals at Bakewell Methodist Church, Haddon Rd, Bakewell, DE45 1EL, Monday evenings 7.15 to 9.30pm, starting 20th January 2025. Just turn up or contact Julie Moss, our membership secretary, for further details - bcsmembersec@gmail.com.

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

- 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 Johnson (listed on our website), the Faure *Requiem* and Finzi's *Full Final Sacrifice*. Self-funded, part-sponsored by Stephen Johnson. 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. Audience tickets are restricted due to the size of the Chorus - FREE but tickets are essential, get these online as well.
- 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

- Sat 25 Jan 6pm, London St Mary-at-Finchley, Silent Film Improv - Blackmail (Hitchcock 1929)
- Monday 27 January, 1.15pm, Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral
- Saturday 22 February, 4pm, London Bloomsbury Baptist Church
- Monday 10 March, 1.15pm, Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral
- Fri 21 & Sat 22 Mar 7pm Heptonstall Church Silent Film Improv - Helen of Four Gates (UK 1922)
- Monday 31 March, 1.15pm, Leeds, St Anne's Cathedral

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

Reminder - "John Rutter Brass at Christmas" CD

You can still buy the CD for the reduced price of just over £10 from the Presto Music website.

Reminder – Georgina's workshops

Georgina's pre-rehearsal workshops are in the Octagon Room 18.30 to 18.55. Contact her if interested.

- Autumn (six workshops) September 24th; 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

Are all on the Chorus website, along with a list of wider singing opportunities compiled by Phil Harrison and provided by John Morgan, in the Members Area, Information, Singing opportunities.

What's On

Classical Sheffield's website lists all upcoming local concerts: <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 & 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 Chorus WhatsApp group is at **SPC Social**. Please don't post personal or music-related details about other SPC members or ex-members without their permission!

Contact emails

These are all listed on the Chorus website in the Members Area / Chorus Contacts

Darius Battiwalla DariusBattiwalla@sheffieldphil.org

Chair Jo Briddock chair@sheffieldphil.org or JoanneBriddock@sheffieldphil.org

Vice Chair VACANCY

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org or AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

Membership Officer Marianne Grayson MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org

Finance Officer Jane Parkin JaneParkin@sheffieldphil.org or accounts@sheffieldphil.org

Rehearsal and Events Officer Jim Monach JimMonach@sheffieldphil.org
New Members Officer Sally Turnbull SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org
Social Events Officer Helen Kirk HelenKirk@sheffieldphil.org
Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson alananderson@sheffieldphil.org
Education & Outreach Officer Georgina Hulse GeorginaHulse@sheffieldphil.org
Member Rep on Committee: Patrick Callaghan PatrickCallaghan@sheffieldphil.org
Member Rep on Committee: Annie Park AnniePark@sheffieldphil.org
Member Rep on Committee: Jenny Swann JennySwann@sheffieldphil.org
S1 Voice Rep Katrina Hulse KatrinaHulse@sheffieldphil.org
S1 Voice Rep Jacqui Amos JacquiAmos@sheffieldphil.org
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
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

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 unsubscribe by contacting leave@membmail.sheffieldphil.org. The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>