

Happy New Year to everyone!

NEW / IMPORTANT ITEMS (scroll down for further details)

- Next rehearsal 07 January 2025 St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield
- Carol concert feedback and thanks
- Bents Green and St Luke's carols
- "John Rutter Brass at Christmas" CD
- 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 07 January 2025 at St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield

The next rehearsal is on Tuesday 07 January 2025 at St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield. It should be lovely and warm. We will start rehearsing for the March 23 Classical Sheffield concert in St Marie's. Music will be distributed so please come early so we can start on time. If you have your own Faure *Requiem* then bring it along. There will be a hire charge so bring some pound coins please!

Please return your Christmas music with markings rubbed out – including music for the two electives.

- 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.
- See map at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#)

Recordings of some of the music for the rest of the season will soon be available at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#)

Georgina's pre-rehearsal workshops will start on 21 January in a room yet to be arranged. Contact her if interested, at georginahulse@sheffieldphil.org January 21 & 28; February 4, 11, 18 & 25; March 4 & 11

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.

Christmas carol concert

Thank you to everyone who sang in the concert and/or helped to prepare for or organise it. There was a fantastic audience – the best at a carol concert or for a classical concert for some years. Andrea Stafford from the Halle Concert Society was there and said we've never sounded better (Andrea organises the Halle's concerts in Sheffield), and Trisha Cooper agreed. The audience clearly loved it. Here's a bit of feedback from various sources:

Rosephayne Powell (composer): *"I just listened to the mp3. Your arrangement and performance of "Christus Natus Est" is wonderful!The power, beauty, and sensitivity of this arrangement cannot be missed. It is most effective and captures the essence and heart of the work. Thank you and have a safe and Merry Christmas! Best, Rosephayne"*

World of Brass: *"We had a great time filming and recording Black Dyke Band and Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus at Sheffield City Hall on Saturday. Capturing their performances for the Yorkshire Christmas Extravaganza was a lot of fun! From Sleigh Ride and Winter Wonderland to local Sheffield carols, this concert is packed with classic Christmas music. Big thanks to Darius Battiwalla, Nicholas Childs, and Zeb Soanes for helping bring it all together."*

Zeb Soames: *"...Queue backstage for mince pies (and a SMALL sherry) as the [@sheffphilchorus](#) come offstage at the interval during our YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR at a packed [@sheffieldcityhall](#) They deserve it — singing to such a high standard is hungry work!"*

Message from Helen Kirk: *"Thank you to everyone who helped on Saturday and leading up to it. Richard did a fantastic job of collecting the donations and selling raffle tickets, helped by Els. Richard has helped me for many years getting there early and encouraging people to part with their money. Richard has decided to stand down from this unofficial role. I cannot say how grateful I have been to him over the years, thank you Richard. I will be looking for another volunteer for this role if anyone fancies it. I couldn't have done without the helpers on the day, Lydia, Diane, Jan, Imelda and anyone else I may*

have forgotten. I must thank Matthew and Charlotte for their mercy mission. The City Hall staff also deserve thanks, Louise and her team provided everything we asked for and made my post-concert clean up so much easier. Despite things conspiring against me I think most people enjoyed it. I must apologise that we did not draw the raffle on the night, it was completely my fault. It was drawn by my husband on the Sunday and the winning ticket belonged to Steve Terry. Thank you all for joining in and giving generously. I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and enjoy lots of wonderful music over the festive period. Happy New Year to you all, Helen xx"

Thanks to all who helped to organise the concert both beforehand and on the day, including Anne, Marianne, Jim and the Events Group, to Helen and her team for the sherry and mince pies at the interval, to Ann Garbett and her helpers for making the stage look so festive, and to Anne and Jack Adams and Jane Parkin for organising CD sales. Special thanks, as always, to Darius, Rachel, Maggie and Georgina for preparing us so well – and to Darius for the marvellous arrangements, especially "Christus Natus Est".

World of Brass recording of the carol concert

The World of Brass recording of the concert is available at <https://wobplay.com> but unfortunately you have to subscribe to be able to hear it.

Bents Green and St Luke's carols (two photos attached)

Message from Jan Copley about the Bents Green event: *"Dear all. So many thanks for the concert last week. Our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed it so much; a real treat for them. Please pass on our thanks to all who took part and all who helped arrange this event. I do hope we can make this an annual event; two years so far! I have included a couple of photos which I hope are useful. Many thanks again and have a peaceful and happy Christmas. Best wishes, Jan"*. Jan Copley Class teacher and Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) for Music.

Thank you to those who sang at the St Luke's service; I'm told that it went well.

Special thanks to Georgina for conducting, to Nigel Gyte for playing at Bents Green, and to Peter Verity for coming to play at the extra rehearsals.

"John Rutter Brass at Christmas" CD

Jack Adams did us proud selling the CDs – he sold them all! The Chorus made over £200 for choir funds, thanks to the generosity of Black Dyke, who let us have 100 at a low rate. Apologies if you didn't get one due to our prioritisation of sales to the audience. You can still buy one for the reduced price of just over £10 from Presto Music (see link below).

Five weeks after its official release the CD bounced back to Number 3 in the 'Specialist Classical Charts' for the week ending 19th December, as well as being one of the top 20 'Album Breakers' of the week in the Independent Album Charts and pushing itself into the top 40 of the Classical Artist Albums. This followed quickly on the heels of the recording being featured as 'Recording of the Week' on the influential Presto Music website and gaining widespread acclaim from critics.

<https://www.prestomusic.com/classical/products/9664743--rutter-brass-at-christmas?srsId=AfmBOoq29gNny5bz5lxVjDK0P9F1JJAuXxmdKAymXn-Z1RTSb4Uu7XXW>

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

- 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. 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

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)

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

- 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

- **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 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

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

Vice Chair VACANCY

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Librarians Alan and Rosemary Anderson alananderson@sheffieldphil.org

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Member Rep on Committee: Annie Park AnniePark@sheffieldphil.org

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A1 Voice Rep Nerissa Kisdon NerissaKisdon@sheffieldphil.org

A2 Voice Rep Jane Baker JaneBaker@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 opt out by contacting administrator@sheffieldphil.org. The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>