

NEW and/or IMPORTANT ITEMS (scroll down for further details)

- **Members Area:** User Name *member* Password *M4hler8D@rius22*
- Rehearsal is in St Marie's on Tuesday, arrive by 6.45 if you can but not before 6.30
- Ticket sales – 142 + 50 (March concert) and 18 (Come Sing)
- Arrangements for Sunday 23 March 2025 (attached, with standing plan)
- Peter Miles thank you
- Classical Sheffield festival – SPC involved in Choir Crawl, Octogenesis, Sinsontes, *Carmen*, *Spem in Allium* (details of when, where etc in update)
- Provisional dates for 2025-26
- **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 18 March 2025 at St Marie's Norfolk Row Sheffield

- For location see <https://stmariecathedral.org/visit-us/finding-us-2/>
- Parking in town in public car parks and on streets only <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/city-centre-car-parking>
- **Please be there by 6.45pm** if you can, so Jim can sort out where we will stand for the concert before 7pm, so that we don't waste rehearsal time, especially (a) as the soloists and organist will be there and (b) we still have a bit of work to get the programme to concert standard!
- However **please don't arrive before 6.30pm** unless you're one of the set-up people, as there's a mass before our rehearsal.
- The rehearsal will go on to 9.15, and it's likely that Thomas Stearn the winner of the Young Composer Competition, will be there.

Rehearsal notes, recordings and rehearsal tracks are on the website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Prepare the Music](#). Grateful thanks to Alan Lacey who has add a set of tracks for This Going Hence with individual voice parts alongside all parts, so we can hear how our part fits into the whole.

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.

Ticket sales update – 142 + 50 (March concert) and 18 (Come and Sing)

- **March concert:** We have sold 142 tickets and given away 50 comps including 20 to asylum seekers / refugees via a great local scheme. So, 192 in a venue with a capacity of 400 and just a week to go, so please share social media posts and promote to your friends and family via the attached e-flyer. Stephen Johnson will be presenting the competition prizes and introducing that section of the concert. The Master Cutler and consort will be at the concert along with Philip Wilby, members of the Jockel family and guests from the council.
- **Come and Sing:** We have sold 18 visiting singer tickets and 2 free audience ticket. SPC members do not need tickets, only *visiting* singers need them (and people who come to the freebie at 6pm).

Arrangements for Sunday 23 March 2025

- **Venue** is St Marie's cathedral, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2PA.
- **Finding the cathedral** – see <https://stmariecathedral.org/visit-us/finding-us-2/>
- **Public transport** - see <https://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>
- **Parking in town:** Public car parks and street parking only <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/city-centre-car-parking>
- **Programme:** Finzi: *Lo the full final sacrifice*, Stephen Johnson: *The Miracle Tree, This going hence, "to wed again"*. Thomas Stearn: "*for music like the sea (Curlew at Redmires)*". Interval. Gabriel Faure: *Requiem* (dedicated to the memory of bass Peter Miles)
- **On-the-day rehearsal:** From 5.30 to 7.30, in the Holden Hall. The entrance is on the left of the main door into the cathedral, next to the Nottingham Building Society. We will rehearse in the hall while mass is being held in the cathedral, so please don't try to get into the church during this period. From around 7.20pm people will be leaving the cathedral after evening mass, via the 'wedding exit' further

to the right. There will be stewards to make sure the congregation leaves this way, so they don't get in the way of the Classical Sheffield audience.

- **Entry and registration:** Register upstairs in the Houlden Hall, either by card or sign-in sheets
- **Concert start time:** 8pm
- **Concert programmes:** will be available on the door, free of charge.
- **Entry onto and off stage:** We will file into the cathedral from the back just before 8pm, as practised the previous Tuesday on site. We will stand throughout the concert. Chairs will be provided for members who need them, by arrangement with Jim Monach before the rehearsal in church on Tuesday. Please follow the standing plan and/or instructions re voice parts, with tall people at the back and edges. Your position at rehearsal is your place for the concert so make a note! File off at the interval, though there will be no refreshments and the interval may be quite short – just time for a comfort break really.
- **Second half:** Please be back for the second half 5 minutes before it starts.
- **Seating plan** Remember this is a STANDING plan. Available to download from [Members Area / Concert Arrangements](#): A few copies will be available on the day; please print your own copy if you can. If there are last-minute changes please follow instructions.
- **Dress code** – for men is black shirts and trousers. 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. Further details at [Stage Procedure and Dress Code](#).
- **Toilets** – in the Houlden Hall – please don't use the ones in church if you can help it, so the audience can use them freely (there aren't many). Disabled toilet in the Houlden Hall
- **Dressing rooms:** Houlden Hall, all together in one room, including soloists, organist and Darius. Please come already in concert dress if you can.
- **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**
 - No after-shave/perfume to avoid breathing problems, especially for those with allergies.
 - Be in position at the back of church / foyer by 7.55pm.
 - Open folders when Darius enters.
 - Keep still once the final piece in each half ends, scores open.
 - Close scores 'as one' as the applause starts, tucking them under right arm with left arm at your side.
- **Packed meal, refreshments:** Packed meals are okay, eat in the Houlden Hall. Please be tidy and remove any rubbish. No refreshments provided for performers or audience
- **VIPs** – the Master Cutler and Mistress Cutler will be guests at the concert, along with composer and competition judge Philip Wilby, composer Stephen Johnson who will present the competition trophies, the five winners of the competition, members of Stella Jockel's family and a number of folk from the council. They will all have reserved seats at the front. We have also provided 20 tickets to a group which organises free access to asylum seekers and refugees.
- **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. Most importantly, stay away from the cathedral during mass please!
- **Evacuation instructions:** In the event of an emergency, follow the directions of marshals and leave in an orderly fashion. Do not try to retrieve belongings.

Peter Miles – thank you

- **Message from Hannah, one of Peter's three daughters** *"Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to the members of the choir. We couldn't believe how many of them were willing and able to attend the service and it was so special for them to sing the Rachmaninov for dad - they sang it so beautifully, and there were many in the congregation who were moved to tears. And we were so happy that so many of the choir were able to join us afterwards. As you say, it was a lovely, sociable time, and we really enjoyed hearing from all dad's friends just how much he had meant to them."*

- **Message from Sally Turnbull:** “Thank you so much to everybody who sang today for Peter Miles's funeral. I was delighted that so many wanted to sing AND that we just about fitted into the Lady Chapel! I had very grateful feedback from the family and the church, who all said how wonderful our singing was. Thanks to Rachel too for her sensitive conducting. I think we were all agreed that Peter would have been delighted with all the musical contributions by his very talented family and friends (including us), and the readings and folk songs too. It was a very special occasion full of smiles and tears to remember a very special person.”

Classical Sheffield festival - Choir Crawl, Octogenesis, Sinsontes, Carmen, Spem in Allium

Brochures available on Tuesday, take one to see the wonderful concerts all next weekend, many of which feature members of SPC in different guises.

- Friday 23 March SPC members are involved in a Choir Crawl around the city centre, conducted by Joe Banerjee. 17.30 Leah's Yard, 18:05 City Hall steps, 18:30 Orchard Square, 19:00 Tudor Square, 19:35 Train Station. Will be featured on Calendar and on Radio Sheffield.
- Saturday: all-day free events in the Winter Gardens with Octogenesis at 1pm, free Come Sing *Elijah* in St Matthew's Carver Street 2pm, Sinsontes 3.15pm in the Upper Chapel (£5.50).
- On Sunday SPC members are singing in *Carmen* at 3pm (£22), plus there's *Spem in Allium* etc at St Marie's also at 3pm (£5), and of course our own rehearsal at 5.30 and concert at 8pm.

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 \(in Rehearsals\)](#).

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. Self-funded. Tickets 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 Houlden Hall next door to St Marie's, 5.30 to 7.30pm.
- 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 Peter Shepherd organist. Refreshments and cake at break time (choir donations). Tickets for visiting singers now available online via SPC website (**Singer tickets not needed for SPC members**). 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 confirmed.

2025-26 – some are provisional dates only at this stage (see below)

- Saturday 1 November 2025, St Marie's Cathedral – date confirmed
- Tuesday 9 December 2025, City Hall – to be confirmed
- Saturday 13 December 2025, City Hall - to be confirmed (but very likely)
- Thursday 6 February 2026, City Hall – to be confirmed
- Saturday in April – Come and Sing event – to be confirmed
- *Friday 9 May 2026, Crookes Social Club, SPC Ceilidh plus Pie and Pea supper, date confirmed*
- Sunday 7 June 2026, City Hall – to be confirmed (but very likely)

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

Darius concerts

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

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

All up-coming opportunities for singing locally are 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](#)

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/>