

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

- **Members Area: User Name *member* Password *M4hler8D@rius22***
- **PLEASE DON'T USE THE CAR PARK UNLESS ARRANGED WITH JIM**
- **No pre-rehearsal workshop this week**
- **Clarification re seating for the March concert**
- **Young Composer Competition winner announced**
- **Ticket sales – 43 (March concert) and 12 (Come Sing – members don't need tickets!)**
- **Please promote March concert – e-flyer attached**
- **Peter Miles funeral**
- **Pie and Pea Supper, Auction and Quiz Sunday 9 March**
- **Help a student by taking a quick survey about choral singing**
- **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 25 February 2025 at St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane Sheffield

REMINDER - PLEASE DON'T USE THE CAR PARK UNLESS YOU'VE ARRANGED IT WITH JIM MONACH. It's for our professionals and for those with mobility problems – don't squeeze them out!

Please bring Faure *Requiem* with bar numbers added, the Finzi, the three pieces by Stephen Johnson and the Young Composer winning work.

Rehearsal notes are on the website at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Prepare the Music](#). Please use them to mark up your copies with the instructions from Darius - and add bar numbers to your Faure. This area of the website also has links to YouTube recordings of the Faure and the Finzi, and mp3 practise files by voice part for the young composer work and two of the Stephen Johnson pieces.

Georgina isn't available on Tuesday so there won't be a pre-rehearsal workshop. Apologies. Next ones March 4 & 11

Please note that the fine for non-return of music SPC has hired will be charged to those members whose music has not been returned, even if the member concerned passed their copy to a colleague to return in their absence. Sorry about this but non-returns continue to be an issue.

- 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.

All members are welcome to 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.

Young Composer Competition winner announced

The winner is Thomas Stearn aged 30, who is doing a PhD in Vocal Composition at the university. He is thrilled to bits, is coming to the concert and may come to one of the later rehearsals. Second is Cassie White aged 27, who composes video game music for a firm on the outskirts of Sheffield. Third is Reuben Tozer-Loft, who was born and raised in Sheffield but currently lives in Bologna where he's studying for a master's degree in composition. Cerys Owen (21) and James Thomas (25) are Highly Commended. Read more about the winners on the website at <https://sheffieldphil.org/young-composer-competition-2024-25/>

Ticket sales update – 23 (March concert) and 9 (Come and Sing)

- March concert: We have sold 43 tickets with just four weeks to go, so please share the social media posts that have started to appear and promote it to your friends and family via the attached e-flyer.

Paper flyers will be available soon but, in the meantime, do share posts on Facebook and Instagram. The winners of the young composer competition have been announced (see above) and will be used to promote the concert, so please look out for social media posts etc.

- Come and Sing: We have sold 12 visiting singers tickets and 1 free audience ticket. **SPC members do not need tickets**, only *visiting* singers need them (and people who come to the freebie at 6pm).

Clarification re seating for the March concert – see Jim if this is you

Members who need to sit down during the concert on 23 March will be provided with chairs at the side of the performance area. This will be close to the Chorus – close enough to sing alongside colleagues from the same voice part. We know that for some folk the chair needs to be next to where they are standing. This is fine, we will sort it one way or another - we don't want to exclude any singer who may need to sit down! The rest of the choir will need to stand throughout the performance – not too onerous as each half is relatively short. **Please see Jim Monach if you would like a chair to be provided for you.**

Arrangements for the concert day have been on the website since New Year's Day, see [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#)

Peter Miles funeral

Bass Peter Miles has sadly lost his fight with cancer and died at home on 13 February surrounded by his family. His funeral will be on Monday 10 March at 2pm at Hathersage Parish Church, followed by a burial for family and close friends. There will also be a social gathering, venue yet to be confirmed. We may well be asked to sing a piece at the funeral, so please save the date if you knew Peter and would like to sing – probably one of the Rachmaninov Vespers. Sally Turnbull is collecting names on a sheet so do sign up on Tuesday if you'd like to sing at the funeral.

Pie and Pea Supper, Auction and Quiz Sunday 9 March

The groups presenting Carmen during the Classical Sheffield festival are having a pie and pea supper at Crookes Social Club on Sunday March 9th, 17.30-21.00. There will be a skills auction and a music-related quiz. A few members have already booked tickets for this, which should be a fun evening. Tickets £5 (no food) or £17, see <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheffieldphilharmonicorchestra/1541888> To offer a skill to be auctioned, contact Jane Groves for a form grovesjane@googlemail.com

Help a student by taking a quick survey about choral singing

Sara Szabo is running a study for her Psychology degree with the Open University, investigating the factors that motivate people to join and participate in adult auditioned symphony choirs. Sara sings with an adult auditioned symphony choir in the UK and works as a mental health professional. Data collected will be anonymous. All participants will need to be over the age of 18. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Link to the online survey:

https://openss.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aat9e0i34CelJbw

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 and beyond

- Sunday 23 March 2025, 8pm, St Marie's cathedral, final concert of the Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend: Young Composer Competition winner, three new works by composer Stephen Johnson (listed on our website), the Faure *Requiem* and Finzi's *Full Final Sacrifice*. Organist Neil Taylor. 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, 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.
- Friday 9 May 2026, Crookes Social Club, SPC Ceilidh plus Pie and Pea supper, details to follow.

*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 - Organist wanted – see attached advert

The Church of All Saints in Youlgreave are looking for an organist; see and share the attached advert.

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

- **Voice for Life workshop on Saturday, 1st March 2025** at Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, Sheffield, S7 2HB, 2 to 5pm. Cost £10, refreshments available. Led by Marcus Farnsworth, Head of Vocal Studies at Chetham's School of Music and a director of choirs. Focus will be on voice production through exercises and working through pieces of music. To book a place see www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk.

This and others 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/>