

First, thank you all for your patience and forbearance for standing through Tuesday's rehearsal without a break and for working so hard. Thank you to Darius for being positive and encouraging. Stephen Johnson has sent his best wishes and thanks for all our hard work with his pieces. Rachel Copley, who sadly is under the weather so can't join us, sent this message: *"I know that it will be an emotional concert, and a fitting climax to the Festival. I send all my best wishes to the Phil for a memorable evening. Love Rachel."*

Rehearsal track

Darius has sent the attached rehearsal track for *The Miracle Tree*, with all the voice parts so we can practise coming in on the right notes etc. It's also on the website with the other rehearsal tracks at [Members Area / Rehearsals / Preparing the Music](#). Do use this and the other rehearsal tracks, and recordings of the Finzi and Faure, to practise so that we are all super confident on Sunday.

Revised formation

- The standing plan has been amended so that we are configured much wider and therefore shallower. The revised plan will be available on the website at [Members Area / Concert arrangements](#).
- We will take out four rows of pews and use the space thus created at the front, enabling many more people to be in the first few rows at floor level, coming right out at the sides to the same level as the pillars and perhaps even a little beyond. This should mean that we all fit in front of the altar, with nobody so far back that they can't see.
- Although the standing plan shows us in straight lines, Darius wants us to actually curve the lines to form an arc as best we can in the space, so we can hear one another. People at and near the ends of rows please take the initiative and make this formation happen on Sunday.
- It's particularly important that no voice part block is split into two by other voice parts, as the second sopranos were on Tuesday. People are given confidence by the sound of the same voice part behind them, and that confidence is carried forward to others who we can't hear but who can hear us etc etc. We all support one another in that sense.
- We will get into formation down the length of the Houlden Hall before the rehearsal, so that people can make a note of which row they are in and who they are next to before we file into church. Of course, it will be tricky getting into the new positions in front of the audience, but our collective mutual responsibility and sensible good judgement will carry us through. A bit of slightly messy jiggling before we start will be a small price to pay for the wonderful singing that will follow.
- There will be chairs for those who need them, please move these into safe and sensible nearby positions if needs be. Feel free to use the chairs behind the altar if you really need to, especially when we aren't singing, eg during the prize-giving.

Help with moving pews

Please can a few strong people volunteer to help move pews to the sides at 7.30? They are heavy but easy and quick to move. Please let Jim Monach know if you can do this.

Interval

At the interval, please find a seat in the body of the church with the audience, it doesn't matter where! This isn't like a City Hall concert - the weekend festival is generally a very relaxed affair, with pop-ups in public spaces all over the place, so no-one is going to turn a hair if it's a bit unconventional in that sense. The most important thing is that everyone is comfortable and that we sing with confidence.

Bass solo in the Finzi

Basses – don't worry about the solo passage in the Finzi on pages 21 to 24, the soloist is going to sing it.

Improving visibility of the scores

Darius has said that we can use mini clip-on book lights to light up our copies if we want to improve visibility. There should be tiny (so NOT music stand lights) and must point towards the singer not the audience. Waterstones some good ones and all the stores in our region have them in stock, orderable via Click and Collect, eg [ReallyTinyBooklight](#) and [MiniFoldingBookLight](#)

Student tickets available

A student rate has been added to the ticketing website, priced £6.

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