

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

- **Members Area: User Name member Password M4hler8D@rius22**
- **Next rehearsal is Tue 9 Sep 2025; £5 music hire, new member 'buddies' needed**
- **Rehearsal tracks and recordings for next concert on website**
- **IMPORTANT – we still need a Secretary and a tenor voice rep!**
- **Georgina's workshop dates – first one next week**
- **Membership Survey (attachment) deadline end of September 2025**
- **Notice of 89th AGM on Tuesday 7 October 2025**
- **Bill Smylie memorial service – thank you**
- **Sam West event in Sheffield Wed 8 Oct 2025**
- **Chorus trip to see 'The Choral' at the Showroom Sun 12 Oct 2025**
- **Diary Dates – extra concert date added so season has SEVEN concerts**
- **Change of contact details – tell us via [emailchange2019@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:emailchange2019@sheffieldphil.org)**

### First rehearsal Tue 9 Sep 2025

Our first rehearsal of the season is on Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 19.00 in St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. We'll start rehearsing for the 1 November concert so please try to be a bit early to collect all the music. The hire charge will be £5, correct change if you can.

**Message from Sally Turnbull:** *"Good news! There are about 16 potential new singers so far wanting to try a rehearsal from 9th September with a view to joining. If you feel you could help by 'buddying' someone from your voice section to make them feel welcome in their first few visits please can you email me? Many thanks in anticipation. SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org"*

The new people plus lots of music to distribute means the foyer will be full, so please don't congregate there for any reason - move into the church to chat as soon as you've signed in and collected your scores. Many thanks.

The programme for the first concert is listed on our website at [Sheffieldphil.org](http://Sheffieldphil.org) / [Current season](#), with links to rehearsal tracks and recordings of most of the music at [Members Area / Preparing the music](#)

### Chorus organisation - we urgently need a Secretary!

We now have someone to organise the concerts, helped by a small group, but really do need someone to take over the general Secretary duties when Anne Adams steps down at the AGM. This is now a very much-reduced role from that undertaken by Anne and previous role holders, as many responsibilities and tasks have been allocated to others. In addition, Anne will have completed the rehearsal set-up for the coming season, and the AGM organisation and papers, so the role will be more modest in the first year of taking over. In fact, in future someone other than the Secretary could organise the AGM which is a 'once a year' role, leaving even less for the Secretary to do. Anne has created templates or blueprints for virtually every task, and a calendar of when they can be done, making the role very straight forward. She is happy to help the role holder throughout the year, of course. See [Members Area / Chorus Organisation](#) for details of the responsibilities.

If you think you might be able to take over as Secretary from October onwards, please contact any member of the committee as soon as possible.

### Georgina's workshops start next week

Education and Outreach Officer Georgina Hulse will run a series of workshops to help participants with choral singing techniques, including sight singing, and to prepare for up-coming concerts; content can be tailored to suit those who sign up. All are welcome, including people who are trying us out. The workshops run from 18.30 to 18.55, ie just

before the main rehearsal, in the back room at St Andrew's Psalter Lane church. Below are the dates for the coming season; email Georgina at [GeorginaHulse@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:GeorginaHulse@sheffieldphil.org)

Sep 16, 23 & 30, Oct 7, 14 & 21, Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25

Feb 10, 17 & 24, Mar 3, 10 & 17, Apr 14, 21 & 28, May 5

### **Membership Survey – deadline end of September 2025**

Many thanks to all those who have responded to the membership survey which Darius sent out recently. The survey has been designed to help Darius, the committee and other helpers to plan, organise and improve the choir. The invitation is reproduced below, and the list of past concerts is attached. The link and attachment are also on the website at [Members Area / Weekly Update](#) Please respond by the end of September. Many thanks.

*"I hope you've all had a great summer and are looking forward to being back in action next week! It's a very busy season with a lot of exciting music and we hope you'll commit to as many events as you can. It would be really helpful to us if you could follow the link below and complete the membership survey. It covers pretty much every aspect of how the choir is run, both musical and non-musical, and is really helpful for us in planning future events and how we can continue to improve our organisation. There are quite a lot of questions but it's your choir and we'd like to take all opinions into account, so we really appreciate your time! <https://forms.office.com/e/wxUUn7Bhik> Best wishes, Darius and Marianne"*

### **Notice of 89th Annual General Meeting**

The 89th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 07 October 2025 at 8.30pm, after a shortened rehearsal. The formal notice and a complete set of AGM papers will be distributed by email by 22 September 2025 at the latest. This notice is provided to give members time to consider whether they might stand for election.

All Trustees must stand down each year; almost all are willing to stand again and are seeking re-election (see list below). Anne Adams is standing down after ten years as Administrator, though she will continue to organise the Stella Jockel Young Composer Competition and look after the website content. Patrick Callaghan and Jenny Swann, who have been Member Reps for the last three years, are also standing down. All have been valued members of the committee and we thank them for their service.

There is one vacancy, for Secretary. The role has been much reduced compared to the Administrator role which it replaces; for example concert planning, which is a large proportion of the work, now forms a separate role. Members accepting this role would become a trustee of the charity. You can see more detail on our website at [Members Area / Chorus Organisation](#)

Please note that anyone who has been a member of the Chorus for a year or more may stand for any of the roles, whether vacant or not. Please consider offering your services if you can.

Nomination forms are attached to this email and should be completed and submitted to Anne Adams by Tuesday 23 September if possible, or by Tuesday 30 September at the latest.

Nominees must acquire and keep email confirmation that the two members listed have agreed to propose and second their nomination. **Please note that no member can propose/second more than one nominee, and nominees must check this before accepting their proposer and seconder.**

We are hoping to hold our customary wine and cheese social after the AGM. Social Events Officer Helen Kirk will be organising a collection to cover the cost of the wine and cheese, so please contribute if you can. Please let Helen know if you can help on the night.

**Members seeking re-election:** Chair Jo Briddock, Finance Officer Jane Parkin, Membership Officer Marianne Grayson, Librarian Alan Anderson, New Members Officer

Sally Turnbull, Education & Outreach Officer Georgina Hulse, Transport Officer Paul Duffield, Minutes Secretary Kathy Towers, Member Representatives Annie Park (Year 2 of 3), Social Events Officer Helen Kirk, EDI Officer Boo Spurgeon

**Members seeking election for the first time:** Event Planning Officer Rosalind Hobson, Contracts Officer Rachel Mallaband, Rehearsals & Events Officer Georgina Hulse, Member Representatives Rebecca Hutton (Year 1 of 3), Patricia Wake (Year 1 of 3) Alexandra Walton (Year 1 of 3)

**Members who will continue in their volunteer roles:** Webmaster Matthew Morgan, Website Officer Anne Adams, Classical Sheffield rep Anne Adams, Making Music rep Anne Adams, Archivist Penny Webster

### **Bill Smylie memorial service**

Many thanks to all those members who sang at Bill's memorial service on 3 September at St Andrew's United Reformed Church, and to Georgina for conducting. The service was very moving and the Chorus members who sang did Bill proud. His contribution to the choir was significant - as a former trustee, choir historian and second tenor – he was our longest-standing member with a phenomenal 73 years of singing with us. He wrote a history of the Chorus in 2010 and one or two members are keen to read this, so if anyone has a copy they would lend, please bring it to rehearsals for those interested to have a look at.

### **Invitation to an evening with Sam West Wed 8 Oct 2025 19.00 for 19.45**

Jane Monach has sent the Chorus an invitation to “**An evening in the company of Samuel West**” which is being organised as a fundraiser for Olivia Blake (Labour) and to support the Campaign for the Arts, a non-partisan charity of which Sam is a trustee. Sam, who you'll know is one of our Patrons, is going to talk about his life, career as an actor and artistic director at the Crucible - and hopefully also about his parents, Tim West and Prunella Scales. The event is in Crookes Club on Wednesday 8th October, with doors opening at 7pm for a 7:45pm start. Tickets are £20, available online from Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-in-the-company-of-samuel-west-tickets-1643876521929?aff=oddtcreator>

Friends and families are welcome – it should be a fascinating and entertaining evening.

### **‘The Choral’ - film at the Showroom**

A number of members are planning to see ‘The Choral’ at the Showroom on Sunday 12 October 2025 at 15.30. If you'd like to join in, book a ticket and meet at the Showroom. The film, written by Alan Bennett and directed by Nicholas Hytner, is set in 1916 and stars Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam and Mark Addy. Set in Yorkshire, it follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenage boys and girls for a performance of Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius. See <https://showroomcinema.org.uk/film/lff-the-choral>

### **Rehearsal schedule**

Darius has completed the rehearsal schedule for next season and it will be uploaded to his website as soon as possible - at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/currentschedule.pdf>,. There's also a link from the members area of the [Chorus website \(in Rehearsals\)](#). See also Diary dates (below and Chorus website at [Members Area / Diary dates](#))

**Diary dates** (dates in italics are voluntary electives; attendance expected at all others)

Confirmed concert, piano and tutti rehearsal dates, times and locations, are posted on the Chorus website as soon as they become available, at [Members Area / Diary dates](#)

**2025-26** – all seven official season dates now confirmed (see below) and on our website at <https://sheffieldphil.org/home/concerts/current-season/>

- Saturday 1 November 2025, St Marie's Cathedral, organ 150th anniversary concert. Jonathan Dove *Seek Him that maketh the Seven Stars*, Cassie White (second prize winner in the Young Composer Competition) *for music like the sea*, Stanford *Blue Bird*, organ solo (Darius), Coleridge Taylor *Lea Shore & Summer is Gone*, Balfour Gardiner *Evening Hymn* INTERVAL Lili Boulanger *Hymne au Soleil*, Durufle motets, organ solo, Jean Langlais *Messe Solennelle* (double organ). Soloists from choir. Organists: Neil Taylor and James Mitchell. There will be seating for the choir when we're not singing (and for those who need it on the altar).
- Tuesday 9 December 2025, City Hall. Halle orchestra live accompaniment to big-screen showing of the film "Home Alone"; we'll sing the main theme and the in-film carols
- Saturday 13 December 2025, 30, City Hall (SICS) Carol concert with Black Dyke Band, BBC presenter Josie D'Arby, programme to include a carol composed by Rachel Fright. Carol concert running order is at [Concert Arrangements](#)
- Sunday 14 December 2025, 2pm cathedral, St Luke's carol service – date confirmed
- Friday 6 February 2026, 19.00, City Hall (SICS) Arvo Part *Lament* with Manchester Camerata. Compulsory conductor piano rehearsal Tue 27 Jan 2026
- Saturday 21 March 2026 – Come and Sing event – Vivaldi *Gloria* plus other works
- Friday 9 May 2026, Crookes Social Club, SPC Ceilidh plus Pie and Pea supper, date confirmed
- Friday 16 May 2025, cathedral, Last Night of the Proms with Brigantes orchestra conducted by Quentin Clare. The Planets, *Blest Pair of Sirens*, *Rule Britannia*, *Land of Hope and Glory* etc.
- Sunday 7 June 2026, City Hall, 16.00 (SICS) *Elijah* with Halle conducted by Matthew Hamilton

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

### **Darius concerts**

See Darius's website at <http://www.dariusbattiwalla.com/concerts/concerts-2025.html>

### **Reminder – what to do if locked out of the website**

If you are unfortunate enough to be locked out of the website (usually due to typing in the wrong password three times), rest assured – it is set such that you can try again after just 5 minutes! The user name and password are at the top of every weekly update.

### **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 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](mailto: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 read it on the website at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#).

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 at [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](mailto:leave@membmail.sheffieldphil.org). The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>