

10th January 2024

Dear friends,

First, a very happy new year to you all. A huge welcome, too, to all our new members, or those considering joining us!

I thought last night's rehearsal was really great, and I'm very much looking forward to what is going to be a wonderful performance of Messiah. In spite of the frequency of its being performed I'm sure that we will find new things within it as we go through the next weeks.

So that we can work as efficiently as possible, I will produce, each week, a detailed recap of what we have achieved in rehearsal, and this information will be placed on the members' area of the SCS website. This contains highly specific information about musical detail, and I'd be really grateful if you could take that on board. The reason I am doing it this way round is because I might want to try certain things out in rehearsal before committing to them. Critically, it may be several weeks before we sing 'And the glory' again, so having all the marks in the copy will mean that we won't need to spend any time on ground we've already covered, for example.

You'll see from the first document on the website that I am colour-coding information for each section of the choir. Soprano = yellow; alto = amber; tenor = blue; bass = red; everyone = green. That way you only need to take note of directives for your voice part colour plus anything designated in green.

For next week's rehearsal I would like to concentrate on the following choruses, please:

For unto us, p. 55

The Lord gave the word, p 146

Their sound is gone out, p 151

Let us break their bonds asunder, p 161

Worthy & Amen, p 217

With best wishes for the week ahead,

David