Charles University Chorus and Orchestra are back!

“Music and rhythm find their way into the secret places of the soul.” – Plato

A warm welcome to new and returning members of the Chorus and Orchestra of Charles University in Prague! And an especial welcome to potential new members on the Erasmus scheme!

Please find the information for the Summer semester 2022 below:

**CHORUS**

**Rehearsals:** The Chorus rehearses usually on Wednesday afternoons 5-7 p.m., at Charvátův Sál (address is U Nemocnice 1, and the hall is on the first floor of the hospital building; the nearest tram stop is Moráň). New members are warmly welcome to join us. Rehearsals are held in English and in Czech, and we traditionally welcome many visiting students on the Erasmus programme and elsewhere, alongside Czech students. There will be auditions during the first rehearsal, at the Charvátův Sál (address as above), 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 March and if necessary also on 16 March. In addition, those who prefer it may choose to have their audition via zoom on Sunday evening, 13 March, 6-7 p.m. (please email us at the address below for a zoom link). No prior preparation is required for the audition (which consists merely of a voice trial and an aural test).

Please keep checking our official pages at [www.sboraorchestruk.cz](http://www.sboraorchestruk.cz) for further information and updates; for instance, exceptionally, our rehearsal may continue into the evening with Orchestra, and occasionally there may be a change in venue. There will be two weekend workshops, on 2-3 April and on 7-8 May. We may also need to join our Orchestra for a joint rehearsal for part of Sunday, 15 May. Details will be announced nearer the time.

**Our repertoire** this semester will be centred on the Beethoven Mass in C. However, a cappella chamber works will also be prepared.

**Concerts:** Our main concert (devoted to the Beethoven Mass in C) will take place at the Czech Museum of Music, on Tuesday, 17 May. We also have the option of performing at the main Orchestral concert at the Aula of the Karolinum on Wednesday, 4 May (possibly joining the Orchestra for a special rehearsal at the Aula on Monday, 2 May in the late evening). A chamber concert is planned for June. We are able to invite our friends free of charge to any of the above concerts. Further particulars about exact times will be announced here in due course.

Concert dress is long, black for the ladies and “black tie” (black bow ties, white shirts, black trousers and black jackets) for the gentlemen.

**Covid-related precautions:** In accordance with the requirements of the building where our rehearsals are hosted, members must present a **valid full vaccination**
certificate to gain entry to our choral rehearsals, AND are expected to wear masks or respirators at rehearsals. Please note that this is a non-negotiable condition associated with our use of the venues where we sing, and is for the protection of everyone. Further, any member displaying symptoms of a cold or ‘flu must please write to us and refrain from attending. Thank you for your understanding at these rather tricky times.

For further details or in the event of any questions please email us on info@sboraocheststruk.cz

ORCHESTRA
New members are warmly welcome to join us. Rehearsals are held in English and in Czech, and we traditionally welcome many visiting students on the Erasmus programme and elsewhere, alongside Czech students.

We are especially interested in string players in every department (especially violas and double-basses – but violinists and violoncellists are also most welcome!), and this semester also have vacancies for oboes, bassoons and horns.

We regret that we are not in a position to lend or otherwise provide musical instruments, and must urge potential members to make their own arrangements wherever possible.

Our repertoire this semester includes Sibelius’ Symphony No. 3, Beethoven’s Mass in C, Nielsen’s “Helios” Overture, and possibly a further programme for strings (the Dvořák Serenade for Strings, Bach Keyboard Concerto in D Minor/Suite No. 2 for flute and strings, Komitas/Sahakians Liturgy for Strings).

Concerts: In addition to an event for strings in June, we have concerts planned for Wednesday, 4 May at the Aula of the Karolinum (Beethoven Mass in C, preceded by a special rehearsal at the Aula in the evening of Monday, 2 May), and at the Czech Museum of Music on 17 May (Nielsen, Sibelius). We are able to invite our friends free of charge to any of the above concerts. Further particulars about exact times will be announced here in due course. Concert dress is long, black for the ladies and “black tie” (black bow ties, white shirts, black trousers and black jackets) for the gentlemen.

First rehearsal for new members will be on Wednesday, 9 March, and members will also be admitted on Wednesday, 16 March at the latest. The venue is the Hlávka Hall of Residence, at Jenštejnská 1. Our usual time is 7.30 – 10 p.m. Please bring your own music stand. We also expect to have two weekend workshops, on 23-24 April and on 14-15 May (for part of which we may be joined by our Chorus), for particular sections and for Full Orchestra.

Strings: Please write to us with an indication of your orchestral experience; we shall then respond, by sending you scanned music for you to print out in time for our first rehearsal on 9 March. We do not hold auditions for string players, instead inviting them to play in their section; after several weeks, on the basis of recommendations by desk partners, section principals and the concert mistress of the Orchestra, admission is almost always confirmed (subject to a good attendance record).
Wind: Please write to us as soon as possible, indicating your orchestral experience. We shall endeavour to audition you as soon as possible for instruments for which we have vacancies! Auditions include sight-reading, as well as an orchestral excerpt for which we shall send you the scanned part in advance. Wind players admitted to the Orchestra will then immediately be provided with scans of the music for the programme(s) for which they are needed.

It is necessary to write to us in advance before attending the first rehearsal, as members upon arrival must report at the reception of the Hall of Residence, where their names should already be included on the list at reception. The Orchestra email address is info@sboraoorchestruk.cz.

Covid-related precautions: Please note that we shall be obliged to respect conditions associated with our use of the buildings in which we rehearse and perform. At present, however, there are no special requirements for our Wednesday rehearsals. However, please note that the exact requirements vary from hall to hall and institution to institution, and may change in the future. Any member displaying symptoms of a cold or ‘flu should please write to us and refrain from attending.