

THIS WEEKEND'S CONCERT AND SPAIN TOUR UPDATE

Dear CLYO members, and families,

I do apologise that it has been so many weeks since I sent a full update. CLYO itself has been very busy and my alternate life running Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) at the other end of the country has been particularly full on in recent months. Sincere apologies but here we go:

Leeds Town Hall Concert – Sunday 15th March

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS FRIDAY'S REHEARSAL IS IN LEEDS TOWN HALL AND PLEASE CAN WE AIM FOR AN ON TIME START.

Families - as I am sure (hope) you have been told, this is going to be an awesome and genuinely special concert. The Leningrad Symphony is the biggest and longest work CLYO has performed in the 16 years I have been conducting them and the orchestra has risen to the challenges with extraordinary passion and commitment. Shostakovich writes for a huge orchestra and we will be welcoming a number of alumni and guests back for the additional parts – we will have an orchestra of 120!

I am sure many of you have already booked but if not please do so now here:

<https://www.leedsconcertseason.co.uk/whats-on/all-shows/city-of-leeds-youth-orchestra/5053>

This is a concert that totally deserves a full hall so please do tell your friends, relations, the people next door, at school, at the rugby club etc etc that this is not to be missed. The first half is music by Elgar at his most entertaining and moving and of course we are going to do the singing thing.

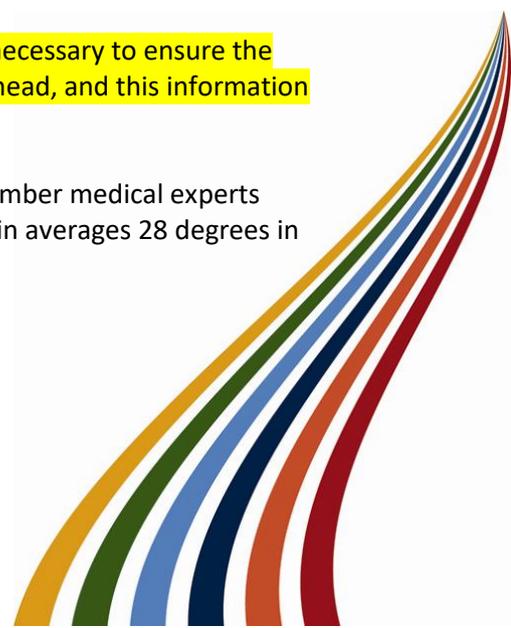
Spain Tour – July 2020

Families are rightly concerned re COVID-19 and the impact on the Spain Tour, it is a concern which I share. The Coronavirus situation is a developing one of course and like everyone I am paying daily, if not hourly, attention to Government advice, both for CLYO and also my staff, musicians and audiences at the BSO.

I have discussed the situation with our tour operators ACFEA this morning. Their position is that they would plan for the tour to go ahead until otherwise told by government. They are still running tours to a number of European countries at the moment and have a large number of tours scheduled for the summer, although tours to Italy over Easter have been cancelled.

ArtForms is monitoring Leeds City Council's advice, and will take all steps necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff. Current advice is that travel to Spain can go ahead, and this information is updated regularly.

Clearly our tour is still several months away and the expectation from a number of medical experts currently is that the virus will die out in the heat of summer. Northern Spain averages 28 degrees in July.



All of that said, I am still significantly concerned about this. I will be discussing it with the Friends of CLYO and also Head of Artforms in the coming days, to agree the best possible risk analysis and I will come back to you all next week – after we have conquered Leningrad Symphony.

Apologies once again that you have had to wait rather too long for this update but be assured that we are looking at this in careful detail.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you wish to discuss further – but maybe let me get through this weekend first.

All best as ever,

Dougie

