

Tour de France for Sheffield choir

MUSIC

Britain may be slowly coming out of Europe, but many of Sheffield's top choral singers will soon be heading enthusiastically in the opposite direction.

Fifty members of the city's biggest choir – the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus – are off to France to perform three concerts, one of them in the Cathedral at Perigueux in the Dordogne.

The trip stems from a cheeky piece of opportunism by choir member and professional DJ Matthew Morgan, who has a house in the Dordogne.

He noticed that a local French choir was singing the Messiah, which he had recently sung with the Sheffield Phil – so he asked if he could join them.

"I managed to get two fabulous performances with a great choir and orchestra including an especially good English trumpeter," said

Matthew. "I also made some new French friends, and it was suggested I invite the Sheffield Phil to the Dordogne to do a combined concert in Perigueux Cathedral."

He was expecting about 20 choir members to volunteer. Instead, about 50 Sheffield singers, who normally perform in City Hall with the Halle and other orchestras, signed up for their very own Tour de France.

The Phil will give two solo concerts in south-west France on July 13 and 16, as

well as their cathedral concert with two French choirs, an orchestra from Bordeaux and the English trumpeter Philip Singleton, who has composed a trumpet fanfare to start the performance.

They will sing Dubois' Messe de la délivrance and excerpts from Brahms Requiem, under Phil conductor Darius Battiwalla.

Matthew, who is a bass with the choir, lives in Holymoorside near Chesterfield. He installs high definition CCTV and runs a DJ business.



Matthew Morgan