

15th March 2008 Margaret Leach

‘Beware the Ides of March’ goes the famous quote – but not in Somerset when Margaret is conducting. Margaret and Ken were at Ruishton nice and early, complete with a Steve Marshall trick – boys in the box – more of which later. We began the afternoon with a look at Pachelbel’s Ricercar in C – slightly confusing as it had 2 flats, so was neither in C major or minor, but Margaret explained that it was common in this era to miss off one of the flats, therefore making it C minor. However, it was quite chromatic, so the key signature was not always relevant. After working at this for a while we played the unseasonal overture for St. Cecelia’s Day by Handel. Margaret talked us through all the solos and tutti and we gave a credible performance – then out came the ‘boys in the box’ – in this case a recording Margaret had made earlier of the continuo part on her electric harpsichord. This was a little faster than the unaccompanied version, but fun to play. Either side of the tea (provided by Gwynneth – the delicious lemon cake went quickly!) we played a fuga from a string Quartet written by Mendelssohn in 1823 when he was just 14 years old. What talent! This we followed by 2 pieces we have attempted before – Scott Joplin’s Entertainer (replete with 2 sopraninos) and Bruce Pennick’s All the birds of the Air. Both fun to play and completing an enjoyable afternoon. We hope to see Margaret and Ken again soon.