

Saturday 8th July 2017 Rachel Mason

On this beautiful summer's afternoon, Rachel came to join us from Bristol with a lovely selection of music. We began the afternoon with a quick play through *Notes for Noreen* by **Julia McKinley**. We had already looked at this in the previous 2 meetings, so were experts! Following that we played through *West Country Suite* by **Eileen Silcocks**, another familiar piece, so having worked on the tricky sections for those who were unfamiliar with the music, we gave a commendable performance.

Next Rachel gave us some music which was unfamiliar to any of us – *Gopak*, by **Modest Mussorsky**, which had some interesting accidentals and quite a modern feel. As we became more sure of the notes, Rachel took the tempo somewhat faster, and we ended up enjoying the final play through. Either side of the tea break, we played **Paul Clark's** *Irish Suite* – a medley of 3 very beautiful Irish tunes.

Tea and cake were ably served by Louise and Julia, before we recommenced the Irish Suite. Following this we split into 10 parts to play **Steve Marshall's** arrangement of the 13th century *Sumemr is Icumen in*. Great fun using soprano down to contra bass, although the great bass part was not particularly challenging, despite its importance in the final chord.

The final two pieces of the afternoon were *Moon River* by **Henry Mancini**, arranged by **Paul Clark**. This was a lovely arrangement, each section having some lovely melodies. Finally, and with not long to work on it (good as the soprano had top E's!), we played **Elgar's** *Salut d'amour*, arranged by Alyson Lewin. This is worth another look at a later meeting as there was again, plenty for everyone to play.

Thank you Rachel for a lovely afternoon, and I hope you'll be back to see us soon.