

SRP DECEMBER MEETING Dec 8th

We gathered in the small meeting room for our Christmas meeting; there were 12 of us including Gwyneth who was conducting. We were cosy and not too troubled by the junior disco that was 'raging' in the main hall; it would have been a bit tight had we been a bigger group. Gwyneth kept us very busy with a variety of 'Christmassy' or seasonal related pieces as follows: Corelli's Christmas Pastorale was the first challenge – for some of us anyway The Silver Swan – a madrigal by Orlando Gibbons which was lovely We then played a selection from Carols in Consort: The Infant King; The Cherry Tree Carol; Awake and Join; It Came Upon the Midnight Clear and See Amid the Winter's Snow.

Requests from the floor for a couple more were played too as we were all enjoying these familiar seasonal tunes. On the Road by Judith Bush came next, which was lively and fun to play. Night Watch and Heigh Ho Holiday from the Suite for 5 recorders by Anthony Holborne a Tudor consort composer; these kept us in very traditional spirit. A Musical Sleigh Ride by Leopold Mozart was damned with faint praise when someone suggested he was not as talented as his son!

A very welcome tea break saw us tucking into lovely Christmas cake, mince pies and Christmas biscuits provided very kindly by Miriam Arscott and Mary Felstead; thank you both. We were then ready to start again.

In Dulce Jubilo by J S Bach brought us back into traditional Christmas theme once more David Silk's arrangement of I Saw Three Ships and Away in a Manger continued the real seasonal feel For something completely different – Kalymbo from the Latin American Suite by David Thompson; this was real fun which we all enjoyed. Time was running out on us but we managed to squeeze in one of R L Tongue's Four Quantock Carols – A Lovely Lady Sat and Sang – which brought us back to Somerset and rounded off our most enjoyable session.

Thank you very much, Gwyneth.