

REPORT ON SOMERSET SRP MEETING 16TH JULY 2011

There were 16 present including our two conductors for the afternoon.

Mary Green conducted the session before tea, starting with a madrigal "Come Lovers follow me" by Thomas Morley scored for AATB. After playing this through once, we then ran it through again with soloists playing the middle section which was very effective.

Next we tackled Mendelssohn's "Prelude in G Major" marked "Andante con moto" and scored for SAATB with all parts dividing at some point in the music. There were some difficult rhythms in places and some tricky accidentals. This piece needs to be played lightly and the long notes should not be too loud.

We finished Mary's session with a Mozart "Divertimento No. 11 in C major" scored for SopSAATB. We did not have time to look at all of this but we did play through the Menuetto and Trio which were reasonably straight forward. We had a quick look at the start of the Rondo which was more difficult.

Following a delicious tea provided by Diana & Felicity it was Joyce Rudall's turn to wield the baton. She began with the "Minuet and Trio - Vectis" by Chris Evans, a modern piece which was published in the SRP magazine. Vectis is the old name for the Isle of Wight. The piece is scored for ATB. We worked on the dynamics for both pieces and managed to play them reasonably well. We didn't work on the final section - the "Finale".

We then looked at one movement from Steve Marshall's "Gorged on Cheddar" a piece commissioned by Somerset SRP for the festival in April. This was "In Cheddar Wood" scored for SAATTB (and Great Bass). Joyce read out the notes Steve had written to go with the piece. It is a very atmospheric piece which in some places, including the beginning and ending, has a medieval feel and in others is much more modern in style. The timing is very tricky in places but we made a reasonable stab at it.

This was followed by a "James Bond Medley" arranged by John Johnson for a recent Charity event. This was another tricky piece, especially for those not familiar with the theme tunes, but it was starting to come together quite well by the time we finished working on it.

We ended with Palestrina's "Pulchrae sunt genae tuae". We had a stab at translating the title and the closest we could get to it was "Your Knees are Beautiful". The piece, which is scored for SATTB is certainly beautiful and we played it reasonably well.