

19th February 2011. Pete Willis

Today we met in our temporary home of Stoke St. Mary, opposite a lovely pub which Pete had visited for his lunch. Feeling refreshed, Pete gave us the arrangements of **Sanz's** *Españoleta and Canarios*, which we have played in a different arrangement at a previous meeting. These were expertly arranged by Andrew Charlton, giving interesting episodes to all parts. The music is the same as Rodrigo used in his famous guitar concerti. Our next composer was almost Rodrigo's namesake – **Rovigo**, and certainly his fellow countryman. We played two canzons by him – *Canzon Quinta* and *Canzon Sesta*. The trebles managed the reading up an octave without too much difficulty, and after a degree of practice, we performed both reasonably well. We followed this with a setting of **Fauré's** *Pie Jesu*, normally heard performed by choirs, but on this occasion, an arrangement for 7 recorder parts. The beautiful lyrical alto line was well supported by the tenors and basses. After delicious teas provided by Diana and Elsa, who had to deal with a water heating problem, we played *Sonata for a Cylinder Organ* by **Cherubini**. Although I can't find a picture or even a mention of a Cylinder organ in my book of unusual musical instruments, we had decided that it must have been a type of barrel organ, as these work by turning a cylinder with pegs on. Did we sound like one of these? Who knows – luckily, there was no audience to enlighten us. Our final work was a **Geminiani** *Concerto Grosso*, this time opus 3 number 3. It was a lovely lively piece, which would be good to work on for longer, and I think the effect of our lovely cakes was detrimental to its' playing on this occasion. Thank you, Pete, for a lovely varied afternoon of music, and for being so patient with us!