

It was lovely to see Debbie in our part of Somerset again, and she bought a very interesting selection of music. All of the repertoire that she presented us with was arrangements by 20th and 21st century, living composer-arrangers. Non the worse for that – it is always good to have traditional music well arranged by recorder players. Even more interesting was the fact that 4 out of the 6 arrangements were penned by women – and it's only a few days after international women's day, so perhaps that was uppermost in Debbie's mind. And thirdly, the start of the programme was an arrangement of an Irish melody, and the final group of pieces were also arrangements of tunes originally written by an Irish composer.

So, we began, as we often do, with a look at the centrespread piece from the latest RECORDER magazine. This was an arrangement of a lovely Irish melody, *The Lark in the Clear Air*, by **Jenny Orpwood**. There was plenty for all sections to work on, and it fell into place easily. A lovely piece to set the mood of the afternoon.

We then continued with an arrangement by **Steve Marshall** on an original work by the 13th century **Alfonso El Sabio** (I am assured that his name translates as 'the wise'). This was especially arranged for Bath SRP in memory of Harry Lyall, *Santa Maria Stella do dia* being one of his favourite pieces, and one which Bath SRP visit every year. A lovely arrangement which made use of sopranino down to Contra bass, and Debbie also included a drum solo.

Next we played an arrangement by **Alyson Lewin** of *Midsummer Morris*. Great fun to play, and again, a very intuitive and well written piece for our instruments. Either side of the tea break, with delicious cake provided by Gwynneth and Barbara, we gave the descants a break, playing number 2 from *4 Sephadic Songs*, again, well-known melodies describing the Jews exodus from the Iberian peninsula, beautifully arranged by **Lance Eccles**, and Australian composer and arranger, who will put the bar numbers at the foot of the stave! However, we coped with this oddity and played the pieces beautifully.

Back to full capacity and keeping the Jewish melodic theme, to an arrangement of Klezmer music by **Marg Hall**, *Klezmer Collection*. These again were very moving, interestingly written and successfully performed. Marg does write some lovely music and we have had the privilege of playing some of her compositions and arrangements in the past.

So we came full circle and finished the afternoon on an Irish note – appropriate as St. Patrick's Day was only 2 days ago and the Irish were about to beat the Scots at Rugby. The final offering was a very quick play through **Sheila Richards'** *4 Irish Melodies*, arrangements of original tunes by the Irish baroque composer, O'Carolan. Again, another set of beautiful music which the clock beat us to, so perhaps we can have a further look at these at a future meeting.

A lovely afternoon of music making, Debbie, and many thanks for coming to this part of our county. We do hope that you'll be back in 2017.