

Saturday 20th April 2013

Robin Powell

A lovely spring day saw the return of Robin to Ruishton, in his usual well-organised manner he had printed up a programme of the planned music for the afternoon. We began by playing **Byrd's** *Lord Willobie's Welcome*, a lively little piece which warmed the group up nicely. Following this we split into 2 choirs and got out the larger instruments to play **Hassler's** *Kein Grosser Freud*. Robin began by reading the words – which were a 'tribute' to his wife, Alison, who was sat at the back of the hall – I think that she was suitably embarrassed! After a few issues with the printing of the music (repeats in the wrong place!) we gave a creditable performance of the music, and the 2 choir effect worked well. Before tea we looked at **Vivaldi's** very beautiful *Al Santo Sepulcro* – a short sinfonia consisting of a very moving adagio and a lively allegro. Robin had cleverly arranged a descant part as some of the group only play descant, and this worked well. Tea consisted of a cream tea or delicious lemon cake organised by Felicity and Ann. After being fortified (and we needed it!) we played **Paul Clark's** *Greek Dances* – perhaps not up to speed, but they were certainly enjoyable. The 7/8 movement had particular challenges, but I think the general impression was good. Following this we tried our new 'experiment' – playing the music from the centre pages of the SRP magazine. This was an idea put to the committee – to try to play the SRP music at the following rehearsal, so that people could get a chance to practice one part in advance, and after learning it at the meeting could take the music away to their small group with some knowledge. The piece was entitled *Allegretto*, and written by a young composer, **Daniel Rose-Jones**. It had some lovely tunes in, and also some challenges to articulation, and the overall effect was pleasing. We concluded the afternoon by playing through the suite of 5 pieces – *Tafel Musica* – by **Rautavaara**. This is a lovely little suite with interest in all the parts. Thank you Robin, for your patience with the group and the lovely choice of music that you brought along today.