

SRP Meeting 20 September

This meeting kicked off with the AGM which was short and sweet. There were few changes in committee or officers since the current team were willing to continue in their roles - bless them. Mary has decided to step down after years of service to the branch and Sheila would also be happy to step down since she too has been a dedicated committee member for many years. If there is another member who feels they could join the team to inject some fresh 'blood' they would be most welcome and could contact the chairman or secretary to find out more.

On to the music which was chosen and conducted by Joyce in her usual efficient fashion.

The first piece was composed by one of our members Rikki Schnorr called Summer. It was a nice piece to start with, not too difficult but quite a lovely sound; thank you Rikki.

Secondly we went well back in time with a piece by Mozart the Divertimento No 11, originally in D Major but arranged here in C Major. More challenging but very enjoyable even for those of us less experienced players with a lovely soprano part beautifully played by Sheila.

We then gratefully broke for our tea and cakes whilst Tony gathered members subs and issued the new cards for another year. Diana and Julia did us proud with lovely chocolate, banana and fruit cakes so no disappointment there; thanks to them.

Our third piece was the centre spread from the latest Recorder Magazine, an Eileen Silcocks composition called Out for a Stroll. In her words: "*I wrote this piece especially for the SRP magazine, and dedicate it to you all! I love playing around with rhythms, and the tenor ostinato (riff!) at the beginning was the starting point for the whole piece. Yes, there really are four beats in a bar in the first half!*" The mood, as suggested by the title, should be relaxed and friendly, just a few people strolling along. The theory behind using these pieces as they come is to give us a chance to practice before the meeting but we all found this a tricky piece so we did not spend too long with it and moved on to our fourth piece, the Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 2 arranged for recorders by Alex Ayers - a different challenge!.

This proved highly challenging all round since it required several 'solo' parts for contrabass, soprano, 2 x trebles, and 2 x 2 x tenors plus the rest. We were 26 players in all, a good number, but the solo parts rather thinned the group and though we did give it some little time it proved a bit too much that day; perhaps it is something needing a longer session on another day.

To finish we played Clori à Damon dicea, a madrigal, by Andrea Gabrieli who was the uncle of the more well known Giovanni Gabrieli. This was a lovely piece, not difficult but the timing was more difficult than it looked, counted in minims. It sounded really beautiful once mastered and we finished on a high.

Sue Walker