

Saturday 21st April, 2018.

Robin Powell.

As usual, Robin bought a lovely selection of music to our meeting on the Queen's birthday. A good number of members and visitors turned up and I think everyone got a lot out of the afternoon. We began with a play through of a Fantasia by Thomas Ravenscroft. This was a really lovely piece with some tricky moments, but I think we did justice to the piece in the time allowed. Robin gave us some good tips and discouraged the foot tappers!

We followed this by playing one of my personal favourite pieces, The Sinfonia Al Sepulcro by Vivaldi. Despite being scored for AATB, Robin had kindly accommodated those who only played descant by writing out a reduced treble part in the descant range, which seemed to work well. We then lightened the mood by playing Chilcott's Giga. Chilcott was a fairly local composer who lived in the late baroque era, and this Giga was very straightforward to sight read, and even led to some dancing!

Tea was wonderfully prepared by Gill (R) and Sue (W), with a great variety of delicious cakes.

After the tea break we then tackled Gibbons' Fantasia number 6 à 6. Slightly more challenging than we anticipated, and very high with 2 descant parts. This was something that might be worth a revisit as it is a lovely sounding piece. On the back was Schmelzer's Sonata number 5 à 6. Again, 2 descant lines, but a little easier on the ear. This is a beautiful piece, which we enjoyed playing.

We ended the afternoon by playing 3 of Paul Clark's Greek Dances. Great fun and very well written for all 4 instruments. We were somewhat confused when Robin told us about the influence of the Gorillas on one piece, but soon realised that he meant Guerrillas. We also managed to persuade him to take the final movement at a fast pace – and got even faster.

Many thanks Robin, for a very enjoyable afternoon, and we hope we see you soon.