

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

We had a change of week for this month's meeting due to the village hall hosting the village pantomime on our usual week, but the upside meant that Dick Little was free of his responsibilities in Bristol and could come along and conduct Somerset, and it's always a pleasure to welcome Dick to the branch.

We began with a choral work by **Robert Pearsall**, based on Shakespeare – *Take, o take, those lips of mine*. Pearsall was born in Clifton, in Bristol, and wrote this piece to coincide with the bi-centenary of Purcell's death. It was a very beautiful piece, and Dick encouraged us to play in a legato style as befits the music. We then played *Parties sur les Fleut dous a 3*, by **Johann Christoph Faber**. Despite being German, Faber wrote this in the French style, and is very typical of its era. The work consisted of 6 short movements – Airs, Dances and Marches, but with a large proportion repeated. It had originally been written for recorders, and only treble, tenor and bass were required, so we lost the descants.

After the Faber we attempted to go into 2 choirs, but we were rather small in number today – perhaps because of the date change, or perhaps because of the virus which is circulating in Somerset! We attempted **Gabrielli's Canzon septimi toni**, but gave up in favour of fantastic cakes prepared by Sue and Gill.

After the tea break we played *De Profundis* in an arrangement by **Senfl**. We managed to have enough players to play this in both 4 foot and 8 foot, and the final result was very successful. We then played a piece by **Edward Elgar**, not known for his recorder music! However, this quintet, *Harmony Music 1*, which Elgar wrote when he was quite young, has been cleverly arranged for 5 recorder parts by Hugh Blake. After working on the staccato passages and dynamics we played a reasonable rendition of this lovely piece. We ended with a very brief look at **Goldmark's Bridal Song**, but the clock ticked up to 5 o'clock, so I hope you bring this when you come to Somerset again, Dick, so that we can give it the attention it deserves.

Thank you for a lovely afternoon of music making.