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## MUSIC APPRECIATION

MARCH Report by Kathleen Howcroft

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We entertained ourselves this month with members bringing some of their favourite music. We always get a good selection of CDs and this month was no exception.

We had 16 pieces of music to listen to. The first one was The Yeoman of the Guard Overture, which is from a Savoy Opera with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W S Gilbert. It premiered at the Savoy Theatre in 1888 and ran for 423 performances. The next two pieces were by Louis Spohr – Nonet in F Major Op 31 Finale by the Nash Ensemble. In music a nonet is a composition which requires 9 musicians for a performance, or a musical group that consists of 9 people. Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Bassoon, Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. You learn something every day. We also heard Minuet from Octet in E Major op.32.

Our next piece was Kyrie from the Requiem by Maurice Durufle. Commissioned in 1947 by French Music Publisher Durand, written in memory of the composer's father. We also heard Pie Jesu from the Requiem by Durufle, Soloist Ann Murray.

Two Folk Songs followed from America, sung by the Fireside Singers. This Land is Your Land, lyrics by Woodie Guthrie, 1940 and Yellow Rose of Texas dating back to at least the 1850's. The earliest version is found in Christy's Plantation Melodies No. 2, a songbook published under the authority of Edwin Pearce Christy in Philadelphia in 1853. Christy was the founder of the blackface minstrel show known as Christy's Minstrels.

Two favourites of mine, Love Me Do, the debut single by the Beatles, written by Paul McCartney as a teenager, and Yesterday also written by Paul (credited to Lennon- McCartney) and first released on the album Help in 1965. Next came something very different. A CD called Heavy Weather, by the group Weather Report, track Birdland.

Something we are all familiar with Vivaldi – Spring (Allegro) from the Four Seasons. Written around 1716-1717 published in 1725 in Amsterdam. A very different piece The Legend of the Twelve Robbers a Russian folk song by Moskovska Kapelle – soloist Alexei Tal.

Flight of the Bumblebee, an orchestral interlude written by Nikolai Rimsky – Korsakov for his opera The Tale of Tsar Saltan composed in 1899- 1900, played by George Malcolm harpsichordist, organist and conductor.

The next piece was Evangelos known as Vangelis, The Love Theme from the film Blade Runner. Another popular piece, The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba from Solomon by Handel, recorded by the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Nearing the end of our morning was Cwm Rhondda sung by the Treorchy Male Choir and J S Bach – Presto from the Italian Suite BWV 971 played by George Malcolm again on the Harpsichord. A big Thank You to Rob & Diana for leading the meeting and to everyone who brought CDs.

### NO MEETING IN APRIL GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> MAY

FOOL'S GOLD

Acoustic Music – Acoustic Musicians - original music in the folk tradition

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

Olly Burton Comedy in Song

All meetings at 10 am in the Millennium Room, Cotherstone Village Hall

Contact: Kathleen Howcroft 01833 695223 email: kmhinbc@gmail.com