

Past Events

"At Home" with Ruth Lewis Thursday 14th November 2024

Ruth Lewis's At Homes have now become a regular feature of the EDOA calendar. This most recent one was on November 14th, King Charles's birthday and an appropriate theme was chosen: Regal Birthdays. The nine members (including Ruth herself) who attended rose to the challenge and displayed some ingenuity in their choices of music, which were all connected with royalty or rulers in some way.

David Patrick brought a recording of the Coronation March from *Le Prophète* by Meyerbeer, played by himself at All Saints', Friern Barnet on the Nigel Church organ in November 1985.

Roger Carter brought a YouTube recording of *Tönet ihr Pauken, erschallet Trompeten* from J. S. Bach's Cantata 214. BWV 214 is a secular cantata composed in 1733 for the birthday of Maria Josepha, Queen of Poland and Electress of Saxony. However, we recognised the music in its recycled version as *Jauchzet, frohlocket!* from the *Christmas Oratorio* BWV 248.

Rosemary Knight brought a YouTube recording of Ian Tracey playing a transcription of the *Concert pour le souper du Roi* by Lully. The king in question was Louis XIV.

Michael Hennin spoke about the origins of our National Anthem, which was first published in *Thesaurus Musicus* (1744). It was possibly by John Bull (1562-1628) or perhaps from an adaptation of a galliard or plainsong.



Jonathan and Richard playing the piano. Richard was playing the organ pedal part by hand.

There was live music as well! Jonathan Gregory and Richard Harvey played a duet on the piano: *The Sovereign's Fanfare* by Arthur Bliss, which was played as the Queen entered Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the wedding of Princess Margaret and Antony Armstrong-Jones on Friday, 6 May 1960.

Terence Atkins began with a recording that reminded us of King Charles having played the cello in his youth, the lovely *Lied ohne Worte* in D (Op 109) by Mendelssohn. Mendelssohn endeared himself to the young Queen Victoria and Albert, Prince Consort. Terence displayed a large volume of compositions by the Prince Consort and from this we sang verse one of his setting of *Hark the herald angels sing*, which left us in no doubt as to why the Mendelssohn setting is the one that endures to this day!

As usual Ruth laid on a splendid meal, this time turkey with red cabbage and wild rice, followed by cheese and brownies. Terence presented Ruth with a potted plant and a box of chocolates on behalf of members. Finally Ruth played a recording of Elgar's *Nursery Suite*, dedicated to the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. We

thank Ruth for her hospitality and for stimulating us to come up with such an interesting selection of music.

Rosemary Knight
