

Summary of U3A Music Appreciation sessions 2012-13-14

Course leader: Alan Byers

We have been meeting on the 3rd Monday in every month from 3.15pm to 5.15pm in my home in Radlett.

Our sessions have been lively, varied, and received with great enthusiasm. All meetings have been accompanied by hand-outs that summarise much of what we discuss and listen to. The projector and screen are used liberally for musical examples.

From October 2012 to July 2013, I gave an overview of each period of music history plus a session each on film music, world music and the development of musical instruments, culminating in a group visit to the Bate museum of musical instruments in Oxford.

Meetings in October 2013 to June 2014 are listed below:

Oct	Dvorak Choral music (Brian Frankland).
Nov	Early Verdi Operas (David Bagon).
Dec	Music to Share: 11 of us presented music that we wanted to share to the 21 of us who came for that meeting.
Jan	Art of the Violin (Garry Horne).
Feb	Brass Bands (Alison Perry from the Watford Brass Band, with a display of 15 brass instruments).
Mar	History of Dance on Camera.
Apr	(a) Composers (esp Handel) in relation to the British Monarchy of the 18 th century; and (b) The S Wales Cyfarthfa Brass Band (mid 19 th century).
May	Conducting part 1.
June	Conducting part 2 (with James Ross, professional conductor).

All meetings have been attended by 16-21 music enthusiasts – except for our last 2 sessions: in May, a beautiful summer day, only 7 showed up to Conducting part 1. However, in June, a record 32 of us appeared for Conducting part 2, which rather made up for it!

We look forward to our next year which commences at 3.15pm on Mon, October 20th 2014.