**Sound-track for Repton:**

**Recommended music to accompany events for Repton 2018**

**By Judy Tarling**

If you are organising an event for the Repton celebrations next year, do think about providing some suitable music for arrival, coffee breaks etc. The music will enhance the atmosphere of your event and get people in the right frame of mind to look at and enjoy Repton’s landscapes.

England in the late 18th century was buzzing with musical activity, and we know that Repton played the flute which gave him an entry into musical society. In the provincial centres such as Norwich, Colchester, York, the Midlands, and of course Bath, there were many amateur music societies and festivals. Musical performances took in public concerts in assembly rooms, in subscription concerts and in the more private drawing room (think Jane Austen).

In London, there was a successful concert series run by the ‘London’ Bach, Johann Christian (son of Johann Sebastian) and his friend Carl Friedrich Abel, a virtuoso gamba player who was a close friend of Gainsborough and whose portrait was painted by him. Haydn visited London first in 1791 and played at the concert series hosted by Salomon. Music continued to be played at the pleasure gardens such as Marylebone and Vauxhall.

Composers: Handel continued to be performed throughout the 18th century, propelled by the popularity of the oratorio. Italian instrumental music was mostly represented by Corelli who became the style guru for other later English composers such as Handel, Stanley and Boyce. William Kent was called ‘the Corelli of gardeners’. Vivaldi was not much played and the Four Seasons did not become at all known until the mid-20th century!

Here are some recordings recommended (in which I confess was involved). Some of these composers might be unfamiliar to us now but were popular in their own (and Repton’s) time:

* Complete orchestral works of J.C. Bach with The Hanover Band on CPO (20 CDs including ballet and opera excerpts, symphonies and multiple instrument concertos)
* Haydn symphonies with The Hanover Band on Hyperion
* Thomas Arne, Six Favourite Concertos for pianoforte with The Parley of Instruments, Hyperion Records
* William Boyce, Trio Sonatas, The Parley of Instruments, Hyperion Records
* Capel Bond, Six Concertos, The Parley of Instruments, Hyperion Records
* John Stanley, Six Concertos op. 2, The Parley of Instruments, Hyperion Records
* Thomas Arne, *Artaxerxes*, The Parley of Instruments with soloists, Hyperion Records
* *Haydn and His English Friends*, psalms and English parish church music, The Parley of Instruments, Hyperion Records
* Any Haydn sonatas or trios with fortepiano

Have a good Repton year!