

Somerset SRP Meeting September 15th

After a concise and straightforward AGM we settled down to play some music chosen and conducted by Joyce and 21 players ready to exercise their fingers. As always Joyce brought us a good mixture of older and more modern pieces.

Our first piece was 'La Volta' by Michael Praetorius; this was an easy warm up piece in 4-bar phrases which was a good start and easy enough for us to work on giving it shape and some dynamics.

The second two short pieces were from 'Step Stately' by James Carey a modern composer with strong association with the SRP in Edinburgh.

- Mr Beveridge's Maggot an earworm of a piece which was not difficult but had slightly tricky timing
- Jenny Pluck Pears - requiring somewhat more attention to the changes in time signature - needed to watch the conductor here.

Thirdly we were subjected to a real challenge! The centre spread from the Autumn Recorder Magazine - the third movement from '5 Sketches' recently composed by Andrew Challenger.

It looked totally impossible but Joyce insisted we should creep up on it by degrees tackling different parts separately before attempting the whole - but where is the time signature? She did not want us to take it too seriously but to enjoy the fun of it and eventually we made a fair attempt before our tea interval was the usual high point, provided this week by Gwyneth and Louise, and is always looked forward to before embarking on part 2.

We then returned to our fourth piece. This was more 'music as we know it' - 6 Intradas by a less familiar composer Alessandro Orologio (aka Alexander Horologius) (1551–1633) an Italian who travelled extensively in German lands.

His works were collected and edited by F. Colussi in 1992.

We played numbers 4,5 &6. They were slightly tricky with 4/2 timing and some 2/2 bars throughout the pieces often at repeat bars of which there were several.

We finished the afternoon by playing 3 Scottish dances by Johnston, plus an introduction where the basses had to pretend to be bagpipes. Great fun to play, and one, named Hamilton House, reminded us of our Xmas visit to a nearby care home of the same name.