

Playlist for Somerset SRP - 16 August 2014 - conductor Sue Farrant

Fine Knacks for Ladies John Dowland

ExultateJubilate Alessandro Scarlatti

Esurientes, from Magnificat J. S.Bach

Cantique de Jean Racine Faure

Rondeau & Gigue, from Fairy Queen Purcell

Pizzicato Polka Johann & Josef Strauss

Radetzky March Johann Strauss I

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The list above is the varied programme of pieces that Sue challenged us with on Saturday 16 August. We were a smaller group than we sometimes get at our meetings these days but 16 players was quite a nice intimate number with enough players to cover all parts. As Sue commented it gave us an opportunity to listen to each other's parts more readily.

The afternoon was, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and I think we were all challenged enough by the programme, not necessarily by the difficulty of the pieces but by trying to play them well.

Thanks go to Sue who conducted well and also gave us some interesting background information about each composer and piece, most of which I failed to note but here are a few:

* Alessandro, for example, is Scarlatti senior, being the father of two other composers, possibly more well known.

* Fauré was nineteen when he composed the Cantique de Jean Racine and won him the first prize when he graduated from the École Niedermeyer de Paris. This was very playable and sounded lovely!

* the Rondeau and Gigue are lively dances which are included in the semi-opera of the Fairy-Queen which was based on Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream and familiar to many of us.

It seemed that the programme progressed in difficulty somewhat but it was only when we attempted the Strauss Polka and March that there was a bit of a struggle, with timing more than anything; someone commented that perhaps we were getting a bit tired (and full of cake?) by then so perhaps it could have improved had we tried them earlier in the programme when our concentration was better?

Our tea break was suitably catered for by Vivien and Mary in the usual high standard fashion we all look forward to - thank you both.

Sue Walker