

## SRP Meeting Sat March 16th

What a really lovely afternoon! Our conductor, Julia McKinley, treated us to a delightful, mixed programme of pieces; something for everyone. Sadly the numbers were a bit low, only 19, but those of us there thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

She warmed us up with a round - an arrangement of the song Liverpool Street Station by Richard Crossland. It was a simple but fun piece and got us all concentrating once we had a 4-round going. Secondly two short pieces from Anne Marshall's arrangements 'Anne's Choice vol 5'.

1. Sinfonia by Salmone Rossi, a talented violinist and innovative composer in Mantua. Here, as an Italian Jew, he was excused from wearing the yellow badge as Jews were made to do even in those times because of his exceptional musical talent. It was very lively and quick but a very playable piece
2. Galliarda by Balthasar Fritsch, a German musician of the same era; less in known of him apart from his few surviving works. This again, being a dance, was lively and lovely to play.

Next came 'Il est bel et bon' - a piece by Pierre Passereau a French composer of the Renaissance. He was one of the most popular composers of 'Parisian' chansons in the 1530s, most of which were 'rustic' in character. similar to patter songs, using onomatopoeia, double entendres, and frequent obscenity, common features of popular music in France and the Low Countries in the 1530s. It was a short piece with no descant part - 2 treble, tenor and bass so our two decant players were encouraged to change instruments. It was a very fast, fun and though short, a bit of a challenge to keep up the pace; but Julia wouldn't let us slow down.

Then for St Patrick we played the delightful Four Irish Airs by Marg Hall probably known to many but yet more fun playing.

By now we were all ready for tea and cake! Never a disappointment, Miriam and Mary Felstead did us proud with a marvellous array of wicked cakes; thanks very much ladies.

Well refreshed we began again:

So to Wales we next did Alison Lewin's West of Severn - three Welsh folk songs nicely arranged for recorders.

1. Tros y Gareg (Over the Rock) had a fast and tricky rhythm
2. Bugeilio's Gwenith Gwyn (Watching the Wheat) a slower lyrical feel
3. Hela'r Ysgyfarnog (Hunting the Hare) no relaxation here we were after that hare but it seems he got away

The next piece once again had no descant part. It was 'Play a Simple Melody' by Irving Berlin, arranged for recorders by Stan Davis; a catchy tune, with several counter melodies, has been around for a long time but is more.

Finally to end the afternoon on a more relaxed note we played Brother James' Air composed by James Leith Macbeth Bain and as most will know the hymn tune of The Lord's My Shepherd.

The whole afternoon was an extremely enjoyable, fun, well planned and executed programme of music by Julia who kept us all on our toes and focussing on each piece she put before us; thank you Julia.

Sue Walker