

Somerset SRP Meeting 16th May

Conductor Robin Powell

Another really enjoyable afternoon with a good attendance as we have come to expect for most meetings. Robin did a great job of keeping us working hard but not making life too tricky with a lovely selection of pieces.

We began with the Canzone Bergamasca by Samuel Scheidt which tested us on the timing with syncopated rhythms passing from part to part but was a good start. Robin's attempt to conduct through the whole piece in 2/2 succeeded in the end after initially starting us off in 4/4 then 6/4 for the second part.

Secondly we played Fantasia à 6 no 6 by Orlando Gibbons which was somewhat more tricky but sounded good once we had worked through it a few times and got the feeling of the piece, the mood building slowly then moving more actively as it progressed.

A Handel Concerto in four parts was next and had a comfortable familiar feel and once we mastered the geography sounded good.

Teatime; we all felt that we had worked hard and were in need of sustenance, kindly provided by Gwyneth and Sue and enjoyed by all.

For the second session we started with a couple of short fun pieces composed by Rikki Schnorr. Let's Play and Autumn Breeze were not difficult but there were some tricky rhythms which took a bit of practice but they went well. Thank you Rikki for your efforts; it's nice to experiment with some contemporary pieces and Robin was very encouraging about giving composing a try. He said that if anyone else wanted to have a piece played that he would be very happy to include it in his session another time - so there's the challenge!

With that we finished the afternoon with a composition of Robins In the Deep Wood which was slightly challenging with some short chromatic scales to catch us out but it was a lovely piece to play and we all enjoyed it.

Altogether an excellent afternoons playing.