

Saturday 16th November 2019 Emma Murphy – Playing Day

Emma arrived in good time - less flustered than a few of us who had been stuck on the M5 or the A38 for a lot longer than we would have liked.

We started the day's proceedings by playing a very cheerful piece in 8 parts – **Peter Phillip's** *Jubilate Deo*. Emma explained various ways of making a gentler sound and encouraged us to listen to each other carefully, both within our own choirs and across the room to the other choir.

A complete change of character with the next piece – **Lew Pollack's** lively *That's a Plenty*. We aspired to the given tempi, but I'm not sure that we achieved them, however, the overall effect was of a fun to play jazzy piece – with an interesting great bass part.

Then we split into 10 parts, again with the 2 choirs stationed across the room, for **Gabrieli's** beautiful *Canzon in Echo Duodecimi Toni*. Again, we worked hard at details to produce a passable performance, and then broke for lunch. After lunch we returned to the Gabrieli and put some polish onto the parts and gave a reasonable rendition for only a short amount of work.

Back to the 20th and 21st centuries – **John William's** beautiful main theme for *Schindler's List* had been arranged for recorders by **Emma** herself, in many parts, and I think it's fair to say that the basses, greats and contras had a very important role to play in the sonorous melody.

The final work of the afternoon entailed us returning to 5 parts, for **Guerrero's** *Ave Maria à 5*. This lovely work was fairly straightforward, but after a tiring day was the perfect piece.

Tea was provided by Neil and Wendy, with many willing helpers, and the raffle was successfully drawn, before we returned to our places and gave a 'concert' of the 3 favourite pieces of the day. I always think this is a good way to conclude a playing day as it reinforces what you have learnt earlier.

Many thanks to Emma for a lovely day of playing, some great instruction, some patient teaching and a great choice of varied music.