

SRP Report 17th September 2016

Twenty three of us gathered for our AGM. Following this, Joyce Rudall took over as our conductor. We started with No 1 of *Six Intradass* by Alexander Orologio, born in Italy between 1550 and 1560. He worked in Prague for the Emperor Rudolf and also in Dresden as a cornet player. His intradas owe something to Italian madrigals and also to German dance music.

No 1 in 5 parts, is polyphonic, and the parts need to be evenly balanced so that the cross rhythms and melodies can be clearly heard. The time signature is 4/2 2/2 which in this case meant there were 5 bars of 4/2 followed by 1 bar of 2/2. It would be good to try more of this composer's work.

Jubilee Waltz by David F Thompson was written to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the SRP and was first performed at Goldsmiths College, London on 04/04/1987. This is a quick lively piece with a simple waltz melody shared between the four parts. Those not playing the melody, have an accompaniment which becomes gradually more complicated, involving triplets, dotted rhythms and entries on the 2nd beat of the bar. Lots of dynamics to observe and great fun to play. The coda was fiendish for the middle parts!

After tea (and cake of course,) courtesy of Miriam and Mary, we embarked on *Farewell to Stromness* by Peter Maxwell Davies (1934-2016) for SAATTBBGbCb ! This piece moves relentlessly, starting with lowest instruments and gradually adding higher parts until at bar 21 all 8 parts are playing. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 4/4 and back to 6/4. At times everyone is playing crotchet minim crotchet often on the same note and hoping they don't lose their place! I apparently volunteered to play the C bass (I don't actually remember doing this, but I spent some time trying to stop the mouthpiece from falling out.) I do remember being thankful when Stromness faded from view.....

Our final piece was *Three Scottish Country Dances* arranged by Tom Johnston for SSATB. This consisted of *Jenny's Bawbee* (strathspey), *The Fairy Dance* (reel) and *Hamilton House* (jig). We didn't quite manage the reel at twice the speed of the strathspey but I'm sure we could if we'd had more time. Perhaps we could try again sometime. It was fun!

Thank you Joyce for an enjoyable afternoon.

Gwynneth Flitters