

SRP MEETING June 18th 2011

The meeting was well attended; perhaps being conducted by Steve Marshall was at least part of the reason. The atmosphere was relaxed but surprisingly he kept us busy; he imparted the fact that it was his ninth visit to conduct the Somerset group so he must like us too.

The first pieces were two Intradas by Melchior Franck (1579-1639) purported to be the best composer of German Protestant music in the first half of the 17th century. There are 1460 known compositions mostly choral but many intradas (or fanfares).

We then sampled two of Steve's own pieces from his 'Songs Without Words' – the Jogging Song and Love Song.

After the welcome tea break, kindly provided by Jane, came two pieces from Spanish Airs and Dances. They were composed by Gaspar Sanz in 1574, being written for baroque guitar and arranged for the recorder by Christopher Ball. The first was Espangnoleta, possibly an air to or from a balcony or window; and the second Las Hachas and Rujero which Steve described as a dance within a dance.

We followed this with Steve's arrangement for recorders of Linden Lea composed by Vaughan Williams, which though familiar to many was trickier than it looked.

We returned to the dance theme with two pieces from Dances by Susato (1510-1570) a Flemish composer which were arranged for recorder by Ann Marshall.

We played Bransle (Hoboeken Dans) a quick piece and ended sedately with the slow Pavane.

Good timing and dynamics was key to the success of all the pieces, none of which were particularly difficult in themselves but were enjoyable to play. A general air of satisfaction reigned at the end of an afternoon enjoyed by everyone.