

Saturday 18th May. Robin Powell

After a bit of a rush to get the room ready as the hall was locked, Robin decided to start the afternoon with a nice gentle piece – **William Byrd's** *Fantasia Sextet*. After explaining what a Fantasia was, and outlining some key issues, we enjoyed playing the music through a couple of times, and felt suitably calmed.

Next we looked at **Samuel Scheidt's** *Bergamasca* – again after an explanation of the Bergamasca being a peasant dance form Bergamo in Italy. Some of us are playing this in a concert at the end of the week, so it was quite familiar, and the group as a whole enjoyed playing the lively music.

We moved on to a 'play through' of the very long *Fuga*, by **Mendelssohn**, from a string Quartet of his. It went very high on most of the parts, and, although quite playable, seemed a bit too long to work at an SRP afternoon – lovely music though it was. But it was time for tea – and a lovely selection of cakes presented by Diana and Neil.

After tea we continued with the Mendelssohn for a few minutes, before looking at the wonderful *Foxtrot* and *Celebration Rag* by **Lyndon Hilling**. The basses really enjoyed their section of the music, and felt like standing up as in a jazz band.

The afternoon concluded with another gentle piece – **Thomas Ravenscroft's** *Fantasia* (s bit of symmetry here?). this is a beautiful work with a lot of interest in all of the parts, and gave a fitting ending to our lovely afternoon of music making – many thanks, Robin, for so competently leading us through this lovely selection.