

SRP Meeting 19 August 2017 - Conductor Gwynneth Flitters

On a very bright but extremely breezy afternoon 21 players arrived ready for action but possibly not quite the challenges Gwynneth had planned. She got us off to a flying start with L'arbacello ballo furlano, a piece by Giorgio Mainerio (ca. 1530-1540 - May 1582) who was an Italian musician, composer and occultist. This is not a very well known piece and was fast moving and quite tricky, possibly not the easiest start, but certainly woke us all up and focussed both minds and fingers!

Were we then ready for the next piece, a Samuel Scheidt canzon? Canzon on 'O Nachbar Roland' presented us with more problems to overcome and we had to work hard to accomplish slick changes in the time signatures; after a few attempts at these the piece finally went quite well.

In the last ten minutes before tea we started to address the next piece, a modern composition by Andrew Charlton - Pipe Dreams written for the plumber's union of Edmonton, Alberta; another less well known piece. We returned to this after we had been wonderfully catered for at the break by Viv and Jenny with the usual array of lovely cakes, tea and coffee.

Once replete we returned to Pipe Dreams which was an interesting piece but we struggled with timing as a group so did not spend too long since there were other pieces to follow. It is probably something that needed a lot more practice to achieve more success.

Something more familiar to many was the next piece - Handel's Royal Fireworks Music - interestingly arranged for recorders by Anthony Baines. This was somewhat less challenging, possibly because of its familiarity; we got to grips with it more readily and it was lovely.

Finally, a complete change, we threw ourselves into two fun pieces by Lyndon Hilling - Foxtrot and Celebration Rag which brought the afternoon to a lively close.

It was an afternoon of challenges particularly of time signature and key signature changes in most of the pieces but overcoming these difficulties gives its own satisfaction; thank you Gwynneth for being so patient and encouraging throughout; you had the hardest job, we just had to follow, relax and enjoy.

Sue Walker