

SRP 20th October 2018 Conductor Steve Marshall

We are accustomed nowadays to hear music composed by women and see them conducting orchestras. However, our first group of pieces were composed by Fanny Hensel (1805 – 1847) who had to publish most of her music in her brother's name, to avoid scandal. Her brother was Felix Mendelssohn.

3 songs from the Gardenlieder.

1 Lockung (Temptation) A simple legato melody with gentle dynamics

2 Abendlich Schon Rauscht des Wald (In the evening rustles the forest) in 4/4, very atmospheric.

3 Morgengruss (Morning greeting) A jolly dance in 6/8 B major. No key signature, but strewn with accidentals !!

After this enjoyable opening we moved on to the first of Three Intradas by Christoph Demantius (1567-1643) DDTrTTB crotchet= 144you cannot be serious...he was !

Steve said it was easier to play fast from the start and feel the rhythms better, so we did, and were accused of getting slower. Well all right, but only a bit. Steve got a metronome to accompany us and actually it was quite a lot in some places! We practised tricky bits, ended up with a very good performance and were awarded a **gold star** because NO-ONE played in the rests in the off-beat section !

After this feat of concentration we were ready for tea. Lovely cakes by Hazel and Jo, tea served by Neil.

On with the playing....Two Minstrels Trad. Arranged Steve Marshall

O let the kind Minstrel in G was followed by a 6 bar bridge passage leading into The Minstrel Boy in F. Playing had to be legato and we had to watch on the pauses, which were of varying lengths. It had a beautiful, peaceful ending.

And then there was Crescent Moon by Leanne Daharja Veitch, from New Zealand.

This was originally a choral piece, but it became a wild erotic dance to the moon. " I need a drummer " said our leader, and there was a chorus of "Gwyn". Fame at last! Adding the dynamics was hugely enjoyable and I had to keep the same rhythm going no matter what everyone else was doing.

Finally we played Molitva (prayer) by Franjo Dugan (1874 – 1948) from Croatia.

D Tr T B. A short, beautiful, rhythmic end to an excellent afternoon's playing. Steve always produces something new.

Gwynneth Flitters

