

SRP Meeting 23 July 2016

A good sized group of our regular members were present for an entertaining afternoon conducted by Joyce, our resident conductor, we had a short romp around part of Europe for the afternoon. This choice was, she said, inspired by the recent 'Brexit' referendum result which has exercised our minds lately .

We began in the UK with two pieces from a collection of May Madrigals as a warm up, which were 'Now is the Month of Maying' by Thomas Morley, familiar, quick and easy to get the fingers working. The second, 'Now each flow'ry Bank' by Orlando Gibbons; we all agreed this was perhaps not one of his best so did not stay long there.

We then crossed to Ireland for a Paul Clark arrangement of 3 fiddle tunes - the 'Highway to Dublin'. A very lively piece which needed to be played at a good speed for best effect; thoroughly enjoyable but a bit challenging for some of us who's fingers do not always rise to challenge of a sprint.

Next was to France for a complete change of mood, a piece by Erik Satie arranged for recorders by Christian Mondrup. 'Gnossienne No 3' is very delicate and gentle which presents its own difficulties, mostly with interpretation, since there are some rather unusual specific instructions for players throughout the piece. I don't know if these were added by the arranger or part of the original composition.

Tea time was on the horizon by now but whilst the kettles boiled we had a brief look at the first part of 'Pavan Passamezzo 'Deo Gratias' by Peter Philips, an English composer who spent much of his life in the Netherlands.

The usual high standard of tea and cakes was upheld this week by Gwyneth and Elsa. It is always most welcome and a good interval to catch up with fellow players; but the problem is then to get back into playing mode for the second half.

Returning to the Pavan was a delight. It is quite a long piece comprising several different sections with a lot of answering phrases that move to and fro between parts and give the impression of a 2-choir piece but was very playable by everyone.

Our last country was to be Italy in the form of a piece by Domenico Zipoli - 'Canzona No 2', arranged for recorders by Paul Clark. Somewhat of a challenge for many parts but Joyce has high expectations so we did our best and the final play through was not too bad at all.

Given a choice for the last 5 minutes there was general consensus to re-visit the 'Highway to Dublin' rather than a second run at the Canzona; given the shortness of time speed was of the essence so we ended on a high point back in Ireland

Sue Walker