

SRP Meeting 25/06/2016 Conductor Joyce Rudall

We began with a well-known country dance, *Gathering Peascods*, arr Bernard Thomas for SATB. The starting instruction was *determined*, which we were !

There are 3 repeated sections, 2 of six bars followed by 1 of 8 bars. We worked on dynamics, experimenting with a quartet followed by tutti. Finally we played it at a fast 2/2 tempo and it sounded really lively. This brought back happy memories; it was the first country dance I learned at primary school in 1951 !

2. *Fantasia on Polly Oliver and Gathering Peascods* SATB Stanley Taylor

A lovely arrangement of two contrasting pieces – a folk song and a country dance. Polly Oliver played *molto legato* in G major, descants having the melody. All parts had interesting patterns and we finally moved into E minor, ending in a Picardy 3rd and a peaceful rit. Then a quick change of mood and articulation to *Animato* for Gathering Peascods in B flat. The piece ended with a return to tempo 1 for a recap of Polly Oliver.

3. *Fantasia 2* Purcell SATB Composed August 1680.

This was very different from the previous fantasia. It appeared to be in F major, but moved through various keys by the addition of more flats, (much loved by recorder players , especially when they are scattered throughout brisk quaver runs, as in the tenor part). The piece started gently with a little recurring motif of a minim tied to a crotchet across the barline, but by the time we arrived at the 'brisk' section it became quite challenging. However, with Joyce's encouragement we practised the tricky bits and produced a good performance in the end.

After tea, with lovely cake provided by Pat and Vivienne, we continued with Greensleeves arranged by Lynn Hammersley. Although it had a similar dotted rhythm to the original, the tune bore little resemblance to the Tudor version. It was sometimes difficult to decide which part had the melody. I think Henry might have sent the arranger to the Tower for taking liberties !

Our final piece was *The Honie Suckle* by Holbourne , a very cheerful dance in 5 parts and cut time. Once we had mastered the notes (not too difficult) we played it faster, then even faster and it made a lively end to an enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you Joyce for keeping us in order.

Gwynneth Flitters