

Somerset SRP Meeting October 15th 2022

We were lucky to welcome Frances Webb back to our meeting in Ruishton – her previous visit this year had been our first open meeting after the Covid lockdown, so it was good to see more attendees.

She opened proceedings with **Adson's 2 Courtly Masquing Dances**, both of which had a 3 time dance at the end. They were fairly straightforward, and after Frances had told us about Adson and worked on a few difficult corners, we gave a good rendition.

We followed the Adson with one of the 7 fugues arranged by Marian Duschenes - **JS Bach's Fugue no 5 in C major**. These fugues give interest in all the parts, and plenty to work on and again, Frances talked us through the music in a logical way, and we enjoyed playing the entire fugue successfully.

Then Frances reminded us that it is the year of Vaughan Williams' 150th celebration of his birth, so our next piece was an arrangement by Paul Clark of **Vaughan Williams Rhosymedre**. It took us a while to get used to the tempo, but the overall effect was very pleasing when we finally settled down – then we had tea break, with cakes made by Felicity and Diana – and the cakes were declared staggeringly fantastic by some members (they were!). we returned to the Vaughan-Williams, and enjoyed playing the entire piece.

Then we tackled the seven-part *Sonata* by **Schmelzer**, a piece some of us are familiar with, but I think most of us tried a different part. It goes extremely high in the descant parts, but is a very majestic piece, and again, Frances gave us some background information to Schmelzer, which was very interesting. There were some tricky corners, which Frances patiently worked on. Again we played the entire work, with repeats and felt quite proud of the successful rendition.

Finally we had a very short look at **Gastano's Fantasia no 2** – a very relaxing end to a lovely afternoon.

Many thanks Frances, and we look forward to your visit in early 2023, when I've no doubt our counting will be tested again!