

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

### **Playing Day with Philip Thorby**

I left it a little while to write this report so that I could include attendee's comments; and how many there were! 'What an amazing day!' 'Fabulous day' 'Book him again!' 'I've learnt so much!' 'Amazing'!

It truly was a fantastic Playing Day – we just feel sorry for those who missed it. Philip allowed us to play, without too much stopping and starting and then went on to explore the music in depth, talk about its place in the world and be thoroughly entertained and educated by Philip's ebullient approach and enormous knowledge.

Philip had a challenging journey from the East of the country to the West, in many ways, but arrived looking cool and calm despite the warm weather and luckily with many parts. What we played wasn't totally relevant as it was Philip's approach to the music which made the day so successful, but for the record: –

- Terpsichore (Michael Praetorius);
- The Dovehouse Paven (Ferrabosca 2nd);
- Verbum caro Factum est (Hans Leo Hassler);
- The Unicorn's Grace (Staeps) and finally
- Canzon Primi Toni (G.Gabrieli).

Philip often used multiple parts in 4 and 8 foot settings, so it felt more as if you were playing your own line than a massed playing session. He told us the story of Terpsichore, talked us through the various Bransles, worked hard at the Hassler and managed to get the group playing in various styles in the Staeps reflecting the Unicorn's moods then finished with an amazing rendition of Canzon Primi Toni – familiar to some of us, but on Saturday played in a different – and better - light.

Of course, it would not have been such a total success without the wonderful members and committee who work so hard in the background and especially those providing Somerset SRP's legendary refreshments – Rachel, Wendy Sue and Judy. Thank you to everyone.

I hope Philip finally enjoyed his visit to Somerset after being unable to make the festival a few weeks ago and I certainly know that everyone there enjoyed his day with Somerset SRP – and perhaps he will come again??? Thank you so much, Philip – still buzzing!