

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis, Director

Classical Mandolin Society of America

Friday, October 14

Sinfonia a pizzico<sup>^</sup> (2009)

Victor Kioulaphides

*Overtura – Canzonetta – Scherzo – Finale*

Neponset Valley Suite\* (2011)

Owen Hartford

*River Bottom – Currents - Evening*

Oblivion

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

arr. R. Margo

\*World Premiere    <sup>^</sup>United States Premiere

### **Program Notes** by Robert A. Margo

Astor Piazzolla composed *Oblivion* for Marco Bellocchio's film *Enrico IV*, an adaptation of the classic play by Luigi Pirandello. With its soaring, nostalgic theme *Oblivion* is one of Piazzolla's most popular works. The arrangement by PMO member Robert Margo is transposed from the original C-minor to the plucked-string friendly key of A-minor.

Owen Hartford has written many works for the PMO over his long tenure with the group. The PMO is pleased to present the world premiere of Hartford's latest composition, the *Neponset Valley Suite*. The main theme of the first movement (*River Bottom*) is undulating and jagged while the second movement (*Currents*) eddies back and forth between gentle harmonies and stark chromatic lines in 13/8. Drawing on minimalist impulses the final movement (*Evening*) alternates between 4/4 and 3/4 before the *River Bottom* theme returns.

Born in Athens, Greece in 1961, the composer Victor Kioulaphides has produced a lengthy catalog of solo and ensemble works for mandolin which have received widespread critical and popular acclaim. Set in four movements, the *Sinfonia a pizzico* pays homage to Felix Mendelssohn in the year of his bicentennial (2009). Kioulaphides writes that he "always felt that Mendelssohn's light, delicate touch, his magical skill of conjuring up musical imagery, his consummate mastery of articulation would lend itself perfectly to plucked instruments. My *Sinfonia* is a large-scale, challenging, perhaps even daunting work; it develops one, single musical idea, all the way from the opening strains of the first movement to the concluding chords of the last movement". Commissioned and premiered by the Dutch ensemble Het Consort the *Sinfonia* receives its first US performance this evening.

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Joshua Bell (concertmaster), Yvette Cote, Duane Golumb, Chang Lee, David Miller

Second Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Christine Chito, Owen Hartford, Paul Wilde

Mandola: Mark Chuoke, Mack Johnston, Robert Margo, Gayle Raposa

Mandocello: Dan Moore, Matt Snyder

Classical Guitar: Beverly Davis, Michael Hession, Caleb Siebert

Bass: Hiatt Knapp