

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

1914-2014

CENTENNIAL CONCERT SEASON

Mark Davis, Director

Arts in the Village

Goff Hall, Rehoboth MA

February 22, 2014, 7:30 PM

I.

Suite #6 <i>Praeludium – Menuett – Sarabande – Gavotte – Badinerie</i>	Hermann Ambrosius (1897-1983)
Pastorale (from Op. 6, No. 8)	Archangelo Corelli (1653-1713)
Music for Play <i>Entrata – Canzona – Ritmico</i>	Claudio Mandonico
A Lament for the Death of Polite Language	Robert Schultz
Pedra Terra	Milton Rangel- Joao Lira, Arr. M. Davis

II.

Prayer (for the Victims of Terror)	Michael Nix
Three Songs <i>Sail Away – In Germany before the War - Baltimore</i>	Randy Newman, Arr. R. Margo
Evening Sky	Robert Martel
Sunday Headlines <i>How Beer Gave Us Civilization – Celtics Get Revenge, Throttle Bobcats – What's Not to Love about Graffiti –</i>	Owen Hartford
Off to Minnesota	John Goodin

**Program Notes** by Robert A. Margo

Our program begins with two popular works from the mandolin ensemble literature -- "Suite No.

6” by Hermann Ambrosius, written in a friendly, neo-baroque style, and Claudia Mandonico’s rock-influenced “Music for Play” – interspersed with an arrangement of the final movement from Archangel Corelli’s beloved “Christmas Concerto”. Robert Schultz’s “Lament” bemoans the current (mis)-use of the English language in daily life, “debased, shallow in content, full of clichés.” “Where,” he asks “is the new generation of poets?” The musical language is hued with nostalgic Scottish melodies and harmonies, wistfully recalling a richer and more colorful era of expression. “Pedra Terra” is a microcosm of all things Brazilian harmonically and rhythmically. The version played by the PMO is based on the original 1984 recording by the Orquestra de Cuerdas Dedilhadas de Pernambuco.

Massachusetts composer Michael Nix’s “Prayer (for the Victims of Terror)” is written in honor of all those who have suffered at the hands of terrorists. Randy Newman is best known today for his Oscar-winning film scores, but in the late 1960s and early 1970s he wrote some of the most beautiful – and truly odd – pop songs of the era. “Sail Away” is from the album of the same name; “In Germany” and “Baltimore” appear on the album Little Criminals. “Evening Sky” is an old PMO favorite by the guitarist Robert Martel. Owen Hartford is the PMO’s resident composer. Each movement from his latest work, “Sunday Headlines” begins with a melodic fragment whose contour matches exactly a headline from the March 17, 2013 editions of the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*. Highly unusual in the context of the mandolin ensemble literature, “Sunday’s” language is angular and exotic, and the work includes scope for improvisation, both music and speech. The concert concludes with Iowan composer John Goodin’s “Off to Minnesota”, a jaunty setting of a fiddle tune well-known under a slightly different name.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra:

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Mark Davis, Bob Asprinio, Yvette Cote, Chang Lee, David Miller

Second Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Antonio Carlyon, Virginia Child, Christine Chito, Mark Chuoke, Paul Wilde

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Robert Margo

Mandocello: Dan Moore

Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Raffi Donoian

Bass: Hiatt Knapp

The **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** was formed, as clearly as we can tell, in 1914, making this year the one hundredth anniversary of the orchestra’s founding. News articles and programs tell us of performances in the first decades of the twentieth century with Giuseppe Pettine and William Place Jr., both premier mandolin virtuosos in the United States during the instrument’s “Golden Age”. The modern version of the PMO dates from 1971, when it was revived by Hibbard Perry. Since then the PMO has become the leading American mandolin ensemble with regular performances throughout the eastern United States and Western Europe. The PMO is dedicated to the performance of contemporary music, including pieces written for the ensemble. In the past several years the PMO has given US or world premieres of new works by Clarice Assad, Betty Beath, Richard Charlton, Jim Dalton, Owen Hartford, Victor Kioulaphides, Annette Kruisbrink, Stephen Lalor, Olaf Naslund, Michael Nix, Robert Schultz, Emile Stopler, Caroline Szeto, Francine Trester, Frank Wallace, and August Watters. Also over the past several years the PMO has embarked on an ambitious program of joint performances with leading European mandolin ensembles, including Het Consort (The Netherlands); the Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse (France); the JZO NRW (Germany); and the Orchestra of the International Mandolin Academy (Italy), and the Saarländisches Zupforchester (Germany).

PMO Music Director Mark Davis began his guitar and mandolin studies with Hibbard Perry, and continued his studies with the pioneering German guitarist/conductor/composer Siegfried Behrend from whom he inherited his fascination with contemporary forms of musical expression. He has been Music Director of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra since 1989.