

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis, Director

Music at Lily Pads
27 North Road
Peace Dale, Rhode Island
January 27, 2013, 3 PM

I.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Suite No. 6
<i>Prealudium-Menuet-Sarabande-
Gavotte-Badinerie</i> | Hermann Ambrosius (1897-1983) |
| Oblivion | Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
Arr. R. Margo |
| Concerto per Orchestra a Pizzico (2004)
<i>Sinfonia-Notturmo-Rondo</i> | Victor Kioulaphides |

II.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Dances for the Mandolin and the Moon (2009) | Richard Charlton |
| New England Quintets* (2010)
<i>North Branch-Loveren Mill-Monadnock</i> | Frank Wallace |
| Chrysopylae Reflections# (2012) | James Kellaris |
| Urban Sketches (2012)^
<i>Circuits-Underground-Walk About-Fast Lane</i> | Owen Hartford |

*US Premiere

#First Prize Winner, New Music Competition, San Francisco Mandolin Orchestra, 2012

^World Premiere, and Second Prize Winner, Concurso Internacional de Composicion para formaciones de Plectro Jose Fernandez Rosas, Logrono, Spain 2012

Program Notes by Robert A. Margo

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra (PMO) is pleased to present its latest concert program, made up almost entirely of original works for mandolin ensemble. The one exception, “Oblivion” by the great Argentine tango master Astor Piazzolla, was composed for Marco Bellocchio’s film *Enrico IV*, an adaptation of the classic play by Luigi Pirandello.

Our program begins with “Suite No. 6” by the German composer Hermann Ambrosius, an iconic work in the literature for mandolin ensemble written in a friendly, neo-baroque style. One of the most important (and highly demanding) contemporary works for mandolin ensemble, the Kioulaphides’ concerto was originally penned for the Dutch ensemble Het Consort, and received its US premiere by the PMO in February 2006. Richard Charlton is a contemporary Australian composer with an acclaimed catalog of works for classical guitar and plucked string ensemble. Composed in 2005, “The Mandolin and the Moon” incorporates many of Charlton’s influences,

from jazz to world music. A distinguished performer on classical guitar and renaissance lute, Frank Wallace is also a highly recognized composer with an extensive catalog of works for plucked strings, including mandolin. Originally set for guitar orchestra, Wallace re-arranged his “New England Quintets” for mandolin orchestra at the request of the German mandolinist Annika Hinsche. A member of the Dayton Mandolin Orchestra, Ohio composer James Kellaris was recently awarded first prize in the 2012 New Music Competition sponsored by the San Francisco Mandolin Orchestra for his atmospheric “Chrysopylae Reflections”. “Urban Sketches” is the latest work by long-time PMO member and resident composer Owen Hartford. Divided into four short movements, the melodic and harmonic structure of “Urban Sketches” is angular and spicy, with frequent metrical shifts that are reminiscent of Bartok and Stravinsky. Recently awarded second prize in the very prestigious 2012 “Concurso Internacional de Composicion para formaciones de Plectro Jose Fernandez Rosas” (International Plectrum Composition Competition ‘Jose Fernandez Rosas’ 2012) in Logrono, Spain, “Urban Sketches” receives its world premiere at today’s concert.

The original **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** can trace its history to performances in the early 1910s with William Place Jr., one of the 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 many pieces written for the ensemble. 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 Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse, the JZO NRW, the Orchestra of the International Mandolin Academy, and the Saarländisches Zupforchester. The PMO is directed by **Mark Davis**, who pursues an active career as a guitarist, mandolinist, teacher and conductor.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Joshua Bell, Sarah Bell, Yvette Cote, Duane Golomb, Chang Lee, David Miller
Second Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Antonio Carlyon, Virginia Child, Christine Chito, Owen Hartford, Paul Wilde

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

Mandocello: Dan Moore, Oliver Reid

Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Michael Hession

Double Bass: Hiatt Knapp