

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra
Mark Davis, Director

Peterborough Town House
Peterborough, New Hampshire
May 19, 2013
3 P.M.

“Locally Sourced”: Area Music for Mandolin Ensemble

I.

The Cat in Springtime	Mark Davis
New England Quintets (2010) <i>North Branch-Loveren Mill-Monadnock</i>	Frank Wallace
The Color Theory (2013)*	August Watters
Concerto per Orchestra a Pizzico (2004) <i>Sinfonia-Notturmo-Rondo</i>	Victor Kioulaphides

II.

Prayer (for the Victims of Terror)* (2013)	Michael Nix
Dances for the Mandolin and the Moon (2009)	Richard Charlton
Canonic Variations and Fugue on “Free at Last”* (2013)	James Dalton
Stone Flower	Antonio Carlos Jobim Arr. R. Margo
Urban Sketches (2012) <i>Circuits-Underground-Walk About-Fast Lane</i>	Owen Hartford

*World Premiere

Program Notes by Robert A. Margo

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra (PMO) is pleased to present its latest concert program, “Locally Sourced”, featuring original works and arrangements for mandolin ensemble by musicians based in New England and the surrounding region. The one exception to this on the program, “The Mandolin and the Moon,” by Australian Richard Charlton, incorporates many of Charlton’s influences from jazz to world music.

Our program begins with Mark Davis's homage to his pet cat, a PMO favorite and one quarter of a projected "Seasons" suite for felines. A distinguished performer on classical guitar and renaissance lute, New Hampshire's Frank Wallace is a highly recognized composer with an extensive catalog of works for plucked strings. Originally set for guitar orchestra, Wallace re-arranged his "New England Quintets" for mandolin ensemble at the request of the German mandolinist Annika Hinsche. August Watters is an award-winning composer, arranger, performer who teaches at the Berklee School of Music. His "Color Theory" is a novel work for mandolin ensemble, incorporating jazz harmonies and melodic figurations and featuring improvisations by Watters and by PMO guitarist Mark Armstrong. A bassist by profession, New York's Victor Kioulaphides's compositions for plucked strings have received acclaim worldwide. One of the most important (and highly demanding) pieces ever written for mandolin ensemble, the Kioulaphides' concerto was originally penned for the Dutch group 'Het Consort', and received its US premiere by the PMO in February 2006.

Based in western Massachusetts, Michael Nix is an avid performer on and composer for plucked strings. His "Prayer (for the Victims of Terror)" is written in honor of all those who have suffered at the hands of terrorists, and receives its first performance this evening. Boston Conservatory faculty member James Dalton's piece is a set of variations with accompanying fugue on the spiritual "Free at Last," whose lyrics were famously quoted by Martin Luther King in his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. From the 1970s album of the same name, Antonio Carlos Jobim's highly rhythmic "Stone Flower" is arranged for mandolin ensemble by PMO member Robert Margo. 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" 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.

The origins of the **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** can be traced back to 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 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, Michael Nix, Paul Wilde

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Robert Margo, Gayle Raposa, August Watters

Mandocello: Dan Moore, Oliver Reid

Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Michael Hession

Double Bass: Hiatt Knapp