

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra
Mark Davis, Director

Presents

The Saarlandisches Zupforchester
Reiner Stutz, Director

Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School
677 Waterman Ave.
East Providence, RI
Saturday, October 27, 2012 8:00 PM

I.

Neponset Valley Suite
River Bottom – Currents – Evening Owen Hartford

Oblivion Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)
Arr. R. Margo

Dances for the Mandolin and the Moon Richard Charlton

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

(Pause)

Passo mezzo e Mascherada Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)
Arr. T. Thiel

Concerto in G Major for Two Mandolins Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
Allegro-Andante-Allegro Arr. S. Behrend

Soloists: Monika Reiter and Isabell Himbert

Andante et Poloniase Eduardo Mezzacapo (1870-1942)
Arr. E. Mertes

Aria for Saxophone and Mandolin Orchestra Eugene Bozza (1905-1991)
Arr. E. Mertes

Soloist: Michael Bick

Wechselspiele Konrad Wolki (1904-1983)
Adagio ma non troppo-Allegro moderato

Tanzsuite No. 3 Takashi Kubota (1942-)

Saarlandisches Zupforchester

(Pause)

Suite No. 6 <i>Sarabanda-Gavotte-Badinerie</i>	Hermann Ambrosius (1897-1983)
The Song of Japanese Autumn	Yasuo Kuwahara (1946-2003)
Palladio	Karl Jenkins (1944-) Arr. A. Timmerman

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra and Saarländisches Zupforchester

Program Notes by Robert A. Margo

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra is pleased to present its latest collaborative concert. Our guests this evening are the members of the distinguished German plucked string ensemble, the *Saarländisches Zupforchester*, conducted by Reiner Stutz.

The concert begins with three pieces performed by the PMO. Owen Hartford has written many works for the PMO over his long tenure with the group. The “Neponset Valley Suite” was premiered by the PMO in 2011 at the Classical Mandolin Society of America convention in Baltimore, MD. 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 starkly chromatic lines in 13/8. Drawing on minimalist impulses, “Evening” alternates between 4/4 and 3/4 before the “River Bottom” theme returns. Astor Piazzolla composed “Oblivion” for Marco Bellocchio’s film *Enrico IV*, an adaptation of the classic play by Luigi Pirandello. 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” receives its American premiere this evening.

Our concert continues with selections performed by the Saarländisches Zupforchester. Ottorino Respighi was one the most famous of Italian composers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The “Passo mezzo” is a movement from his *style antico* orchestral suite “Ancient Airs and Dances,” arranged for mandolin ensemble. The Vivaldi concerto is, of course, among the most recognizable of classical works, mandolin or otherwise. Eduardo Mezzacapo was a mandolinist from Naples who moved to Paris at the age of 20 where he enjoyed a highly successful career as a teacher and composer. The French composer Eugene Bozza is best known for his many charming works for woodwinds and brass, such as the “Aria” performed this evening in an arrangement for mandolin ensemble. Konrad Wolki was a major figure in 20th century German mandolin; *Wechselspiele* is illustrative of his compositional style. Takashi Kubota is a contemporary composer and conductor from Japan, with a substantial catalog of highly accessible works for mandolin ensemble that is becoming much better known outside of his native country, thanks to performances by German groups such as the SZO.

The final portion of our concert is performed by the combined forces of the PMO and SZO. “Suite No. 6” by the German composer Hermann Ambrosius and “Song of Japanese Autumn” by the Japanese composer Yasuo Kuwahara are classics of the modern repertoire for plucked string ensemble, played by mandolin orchestras everywhere. The concert concludes with an arrangement of Karl Jenkin’s “Palladio”, famed for its use in a De Beers (diamond) television advertisement.

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 five 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 an educator, conductor, and performer.

Currently conducted by the distinguished classical guitarist and composer **Reiner Stutz**, the **Saarländisches Zupforchester (SZO)** was established in 1954 as one of the first nationwide "plucked string orchestras" (*zupforchester*) in Germany. Among its past conductors was the noted classical guitarist and composer Siegfried Behrend who played a highly influential role in fostering mandolin ensemble music in post-WWII Germany. The SZO performs numerous concerts every year in Germany and other European countries, and it has regularly performed in the United States since its first tour in 1998. The SZO is also a regular guest at leading music festivals in Sweden, Spain, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Luxemburg.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Director: Mark Davis

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

Second Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Antonio Carlyon, Christine Chito, Owen Hartford, Michael Nix, Paul Wilde

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

Mandocello: Dan Moore

Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Sylvie Harris, Michael Hession

Double Bass: Hiatt Knapp

Saarlandisches Zupforchester

Director: Reiner Stutz

First Mandolin: Monika Reiter, Isabell Himbert, Dorothee Jost, Salima Ben Gui, Beate Labitzke, Goran Goic

Second Mandolin: Martina Hümbert, Silke Grabowski, Manuela Bick, Melanie Bick, Rosemarie Rauch

Mandola: Annerose Hümbert, Raimund Schwamberger

Mandocello: Raimund Schwamberger

Classical Guitar: Nicole Forse, Stephan Jost, Doris Frank, Maria Demmer, Tobias Dahmen, Claudia Schulien-Fell, David Stutz, Cedric Stutz

Double Bass: Michael Bick