

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis, Director

Sandywoods Center for the Arts

43 Muse Way, Tiverton RI

Sunday, November 17, 3 PM

I.

Suite #6 <i>Praeludium – Menuett – Sarabande – Gavotte – Badinerie</i>	Hermann Ambrosius (1897-1983)
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.

Sail Away* In Germany before the War*	Randy Newman, Arr. R. Margo
Three Movements from “Sunday Headlines”* <i>How Beer Gave Us Civilization Celtics Get Revenge, Throttle Bobcats – What’s Not To Love About Graffiti?</i>	Owen Hartford
Evening Sky	Robert Martel
Off to Minnesota	John Goodin

\*Premiere

**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”. 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.

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” (based on a character from Fritz Lang’s movie “M”) is from “Little Criminals”. Owen Hartford is the PMO’s resident composer. The three movements presented from his latest work, “Sunday Headlines” are literally that – each movement 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. “Evening Sky” is an old PMO favorite by the guitarist Robert Martel. 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.

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Joshua Bell, Sarah Bell, Yvette Cote, Duane Golumb, Chang Lee

Second Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Antonio Carlyon, Virginia Child, Christine Chito, Owen Hartford, Paul Wilde

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Robert Margo, Gail Raposa

Mandocello: Dan Moore, Oliver Reid

Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Raffi Donoian

Bass: Hiatt Knapp

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 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, dir. Alex Timmerman); the Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse (France, dir. Alain Corvocchiola); the JZO NRW (Germany, dir. Christain de Witt); and the Orchestra of the International Mandolin Academy (Italy, dir. Carlo Aonzo), and the Saarländisches Zupforchester (Germany, dir. Reiner Stutz). The PMO is directed by **Mark Davis**, who pursues an active career as a performer on guitar, mandolin, teacher, and conductor.