

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis Director

Aldrich Mansion, Warwick RI

November 9, 2014 3:00 PM

I.

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| Canzone #1 | Jurriaan Andriessen (1925-1996)
Arr. A. Timmerman |
| Suite #6
<i>Praeludium – Menuett – Sarabande –
Gavotte – Badinerie</i> | Hermann Ambrosius (1897-1983) |
| Solace* | Owen Hartford |
| Concerto in C Major, RV 425
<i>Allegro – Largo - Allegro</i>
Mark Davis, mandolin soloist | Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) |

II.

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| Music for Play
<i>Entrata – Canzona – Ritmico</i> | Claudio Mandonico |
| A Lament for the Death of Polite Language | Robert Schultz |
| Evening Sky | Robert Martel |
| Sail Away | Randy Newman
Arr. R. Margo |
| Herbstimpression | Jürgen Thiergärtner |
| Family Squabble | Owen Hartford |
- *World Premiere

Program Notes by Robert A. Margo

Jurriaan Andriessen was a Dutch composer who wrote prolifically for the stage and screen. A classic of the mandolin orchestra repertoire, “Suite No. 6” by Hermann Ambrosius is cast in a friendly, neo-baroque style. Owen Hartford is the PMO’s resident composer. We are pleased to give the first performance this evening of his latest piece for mandolin ensemble, “Solace”. The first half of the concert concludes with Claudia Mandonico’s rock-influenced “Music for Play”.

Australian composer Robert Schultz’s Scottish-inflected “Lament” bemoans the current (mis)-use of the English language -- “debased, shallow in content, full of clichés ... Where is the new

generation of poets?” “Evening Sky” is a PMO favorite by the guitarist Robert Martel. “Leonhard’s Dream” is the second movement of James Kellaris’ evocative “Kalamazoo Suite”. “Sail Away” is the title track from the 1972 album by Randy Newman. “Herbstimpression” by German composer Jürgen Thiergärtner evokes the autumn, perfect for a November concert. Our program concludes with Owen Hartford’s “Family Squabble,” another longtime PMO favorite.

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Mark Chuoke, Christine Chito

Second Mandolin: Owen Hartford, Jacob Paul, John Rufo, Paul Wilde

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Gail Raposa

Liuto Cantabile: Robert A. Margo, Oliver Reid

Mandocello: Dan Moore

Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Will Herern

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 world premieres of new works by Clarice Assad, Jim Dalton, Owen Hartford, Michael Nix, Emile Stöpler, 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. Christian de Witt); and the Orchestra of the International Mandolin Academy (Italy, dir. Carlo Aonzo), and the Saarländisches Zupforchester (Germany, dir. Reiner Stutz).

PMO Music Director Mark Davis began his guitar and mandolin studies with Hibbard Perry, of the Rhode Island school of Giuseppe Pettine and William Place, 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. He tours and records in duo with the guitarist Beverly Davis.

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