

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis Director

Little River Music Series, Hampton Community Center, Hampton CT

May 17, 4:30 PM

I.

Prelude to the Gadfly Suite, Op. 97a	Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-75), arr. M. Linkins
Kalamazoo Suite <i>The Children May Safely Play – Leonhard’s Dream – Echoes from Parson’s Street</i>	James Kellaris
Music for a Deserted City	Philip DeWalt
Small Shoes	
Scarborough Fair/Canticle	Simon and Garfunkel, arr. R. Margo

II.

Australis Suite* <i>Ab Ovo – The Blue Dress – Sequenza</i>	Stephen Lalor
Solace	Owen Hartford
Sycamore	Mark Linkins
Herbstimpressionen	Jürgen Thierygärtner
Synchronicity I	Sting, arr. R. Margo

*US Premiere

Program Notes by Robert A. Margo: The Shostakovich prelude that opens our concert is from the score to the popular 1955 film by Alexander Faintsimmer. We continue with James Kellaris’ three-movement “Kalamazoo Suite”, a major new work for plucked string ensemble. The two DeWalt selections are from a larger set of twelve pieces for mandolin orchestra. The first half closes with an arrangement of Simon and Garfunkel’s 1960s folk-rock standard. We begin the second half with the American premiere of Stephen Lalor’s “Australis Suite”, written for the Australis ensemble and performed by them at the 2014 Eurofestival in Bruchsal, Germany. Owen Hartford is the PMO’s

resident composer; “Solace” is his latest work for the group. The middle section of Mark Linkins’ Irish-inflected “Sycamore” features a solo improvisation by PMO guitarist Mark Armstrong. Jürgen Thiergärtner’s piece evokes the pleasures of a beautiful autumn day. Our concert ends with classic 1980s rock, courtesy of Sting and The Police.

The **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** (PMO) is:

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Mark Chuoke, Christine Chito, Mark Davis

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

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Gayle Raposa

Liuto Cantabile: Robert A. Margo

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. The modern version of the PMO dates from 1971, when it was revived by Hibbard Perry. Since then the PMO has become one of the leading American mandolin ensembles 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 by Clarice Assad, Jim Dalton, Owen Hartford, Michael Nix, Emile Stöpler, Francine Trester, Frank Wallace, and August Watters. In recent 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, and continued with Siegfried Behrend from whom he inherited his fascination with contemporary forms of musical expression. Davis has been Music Director of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra since 1989. He tours and records in duo with the guitarist Beverly Davis, and he is also the director of the New American Mandolin Ensemble.

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