

PROGRAM NOTES

By Robert Mango

Victor Kioulaphides was born in Athens, Greece in 1961. He moved to New York City in 1979 where he studied double bass and composition at the Julliard School and the Manhattan School of Music. In addition to an extremely busy schedule as a composer and classical double bassist he is a faculty member at the Lucy Moses School for Music and Dance in New York City. Kioulaphides' list of awards includes grants from ASCAP and from the Composer Assistance Program at the American Music Center. His compositions have been performed world wide, including at Carnegie Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and the 92nd Street Y in New York City; and in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Argentina, Japan, and the Russian Federation.

Kioulaphides has a lengthy catalog including chamber operas, orchestral, chamber, vocal and instrumental works. Of his chamber opera "Ocean Dream" the noted critic Allan Kozinn wrote in the New York Times that the "music [was] accessible and lush, and draws on Baroque and Renaissance elements." Writing in the New Music Connoisseur James L. Paulk described the score as "endlessly nimble and clever ... [Kioulaphides] gives [his singers] music that connects them to the audience at every turn."

Kioulaphides is a prolific and inspired composer for plucked strings and the first half of today's concert features several of his most important works in this idiom. Subtitled "Marzipan," Kioulaphides' "Quartet #4" - here performed by the Providence Mandolin Orchestra's resident ensemble, the Bradford Mandolin Quartet - is the fourth of a projected set of six for an mandolin group meant to mimic a classical string quartet: first mandolin, second mandolin, tenor mandola (tuned like a viola), and mandocello (tuned like a cello). "Diferencias sobre Morenika" (for solo mandolin) is a beautiful, nostalgic "theme and variations" based on a Greek folk song that makes extended use of

an idiomatic mandolin technique, "cross-picking." Composed originally at the request of Tamara Volskaya for mandolin duo and later incorporated into the final movement of "Quartet #1," the "Toccata Scarlattiana" evokes the sound and expressiveness of the harpsichord, as the title playfully suggests.

The final work on the first half of the program is the United States premiere of Kioulaphides' "Concerto per Orchestra a Pizzico." The concerto was composed for and dedicated to the Dutch mandolin ensemble 'Het Consort' conducted by Alex Timmerman. The world premiere took place in Groningen, The Netherlands, in March of 2005. About the concerto the composer writes: "The form of the piece was determined during several conversations with Alex Timmerman. We mused over the idea of a concerto in the usual sense ... we also considered some sort of concerto grosso with more than one soloist. The final outcome was a work that features each and every section as occasional soloists. The Concerto is in three movements, fast-slow-fast: a Sinfonia first movement, a nocturno second one, and a Rondo finale, subtitled 'Telemanniana' fusing the gallantries of the Master from Magdeburg with the modern material of the earlier two movements."

Tamara Volskaya (domra, mandolin) and Anatoly Trofimov (bayan) comprise one of the most electrifying musical duos in the world. Merited Artists of Russia, winners of national and international competitions, and formerly professors of the Ural State Conservatory, the 'Russian Duo' has toured the former Soviet Union, Europe, Australia, Japan, Canada, and the United States to great acclaim. Their United States performances include appearances at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, the White House, the Library of Congress, Avery Fisher Hall, and on National Public Radio. In 2004 Volskaya performed as a guest artist with the Seattle Symphony Chamber Orchestra including concertos by Vivaldi and Pergolesi. Their 2005-06 season includes performances at Weill Recital Hall and as guest artists with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra under Janite Hauk.

Providence MANDOLIN Orchestra

Mark M. Davis, Director

With guest artists

TAMARA VOLSKAYA AND
ANATOLIY TROFIMOV

February 25th, 2006

The Providence Public Library
Providence, Rhode Island

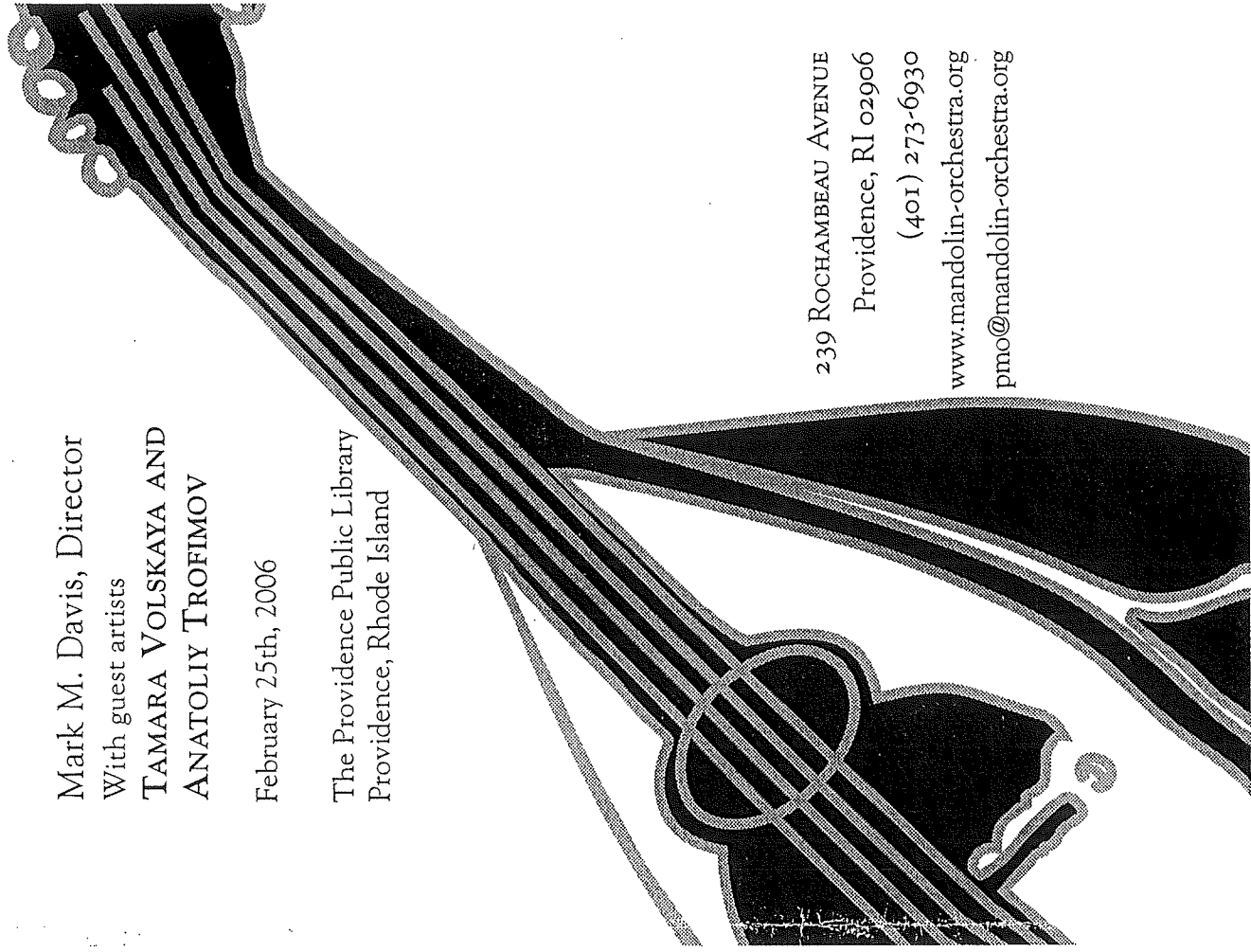
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Providence MANDOLIN Orchestra



- Music For Play Claudio Mandonico
 Entrata-Canzona-Allegro
 Quartet #4, "Marzipan" Victor Kioulaphides
 Bradford Mandolin Quartet
 Andante/Allegro-Adagio-Minuetto-Allegro Assai
 Diferencias sobre Morenika Victor Kioulaphides
 Tamara Volskaya, mandolin
 Toccata Scarlattiana Victor Kioulaphides
 Tamara Volskaya, mandolin
 Joshua Bell, mandolin
 Concerto per orchestra a pizzico Victor Kioulaphides
 (United States premiere)
 Sinfonia-Notturmo-Rondo

INTERMISSION

- Two Russian Romances arr. A. Trofimov
 Rondo in G-major Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Russian Dance (from 'Swan lake') Piotr Tchaikovsky
 Gold Rush Andrey Bizov
 Tamara Volskaya, donna
 Anotoliy Trofimov, bayan
 Fresh Cream Owen Hartford
 Anotoliy Trofimov, bayan
 Concerto in B-Flat
 Allegro-Largo-Allegro Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-36)
 (arr. A. Trofimov)
 Tamara Volskaya, mandolin



THE PROVIDENCE MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA

Mark Davis, conductor

First mandolin

Joshua Bell, concertmaster
 Michael Capelli
 Yvette Cote
 Robert Margo
 Frank Piccirilli

Mandola

Steve Caddick
 Mack Johnston
 Will Melton
 Gayle Raposa

Guitar

Mark Armstrong
 Christine Chito
 Beverly Davis
 Scott Hacker

Bass

Bob Asprinio
 Gino Cicchetti
 Dave Parr

Second mandolin

Lynne Bell
 Antonio Carlyon
 Shirley Gambardella
 Owen Hartford
 Chang Lee
 Lisa Topakian
 Paul Wilde

Mandocello

Duane Golomb
 Dan Moore
 Matt Synder

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra (Mark Davis, conductor) was founded by the late Hibbard Perry in 1973 fulfilling a lifelong dream to revive his own Providence Plecral Orchestra from the 1930s. Over the past thirty-odd years, the Providence Mandolin Orchestra has become one of the leading American mandolin ensembles, with appearances throughout the Eastern United States, Canada, and western Europe.

With well over two hundred pieces in its repertoire, the Orchestra features a wide range of musical styles from Renaissance dances to Baroque concertos, from turn-of-the century nostalgia to avant-garde expressions. The PMO's unique tonality has inspired exciting new works by Clarence Assad, Will Ayton, Stephen Funk Pearson, Michael Nix, Robert Martel, Owen Hartford, and many others.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra is under the direction of Mark Davis. Mr. Davis pursues an active career as a solo performer, educator and conductor. Mark Davis is in charge of instrumental music at the Wheeler School in Providence, RI, where he directs a multi-level classical guitar program.



BRADFORD MANDOLIN QUARTET

Lisa Topakian, mandolin
 Shirley Gambardella, mandolin

Mack Johnston, mandola
 Dan Moore, mandocello

Founded three years ago by members of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra, the Bradford Mandolin Quartet has performed throughout southern New England, most recently at Blithewold Mansion in Bristol, Rhode Island and for the Providence Preservation Society's Tour of Historic Houses. The quartet's extensive repertoire reaches from the Renaissance to ragtime. This is the group's first appearance with the Providence Mandolin Orchestra.