

Francine Trester, and many others. The Providence Mandolin Orchestra is under the direction of Mark Davis. Mr. Davis pursues an active career as a solo and ensemble performer, educator, and conductor. Mark Davis directs a multi-level guitar ensemble program at the Wheeler School in Providence RI.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of the D'Addario Foundation.

Performers: The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin:

Joshua Bell (concertmaster), Michael Cappelli, Yvette Cote, Chang Lee, Robert Margo

Second Mandolin:

Lynne Bell, Robert Capaldi, Antonio Carlyon, Owen Hartford, Lisa Topakian, Paul Wilde

Mandola:

Steve Caddick, Mack Johnston, Will Melton, Gayle Raposa

Mandocello:

Duane Golomb, Dan Moore, Matt Snyder

Guitar:

Mark Armstrong, Christine Chito, Eric Christensen, Beverly Davis

Bass:

Gino Cicchetti, Dave Parr

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis, Director

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

October 29, 2006

7:30 PM

I.

Pavan Passamezo

Peter Philips
(1582-1633)

Suite No. 6

Prelude

Minuet

Sarabande

Gavotte-Trio

Badinerie

Hermann Ambrosius
(1897-1983)

Song of Japanese Autumn

Yasuo Kuwahara
(1946-2003)

Song for My Father

Clarice Assad

Latin Sketches

(World Premiere)

Owen Hartford

Intermission

II.

Music for Play	Claudio Mandonico
Entrata	
Canzona	
Allegro	
Country Fields	Eva Kendrick
Movement #1	Francine Trester
Concierto de Media Luna	Jose Luis Barroso
Recuerdos	
Elegia	
Danza	

Program Notes

By Robert A. Margo

As a classical instrument, the mandolin has its origins in the eighteenth century, but it was around the turn of the twentieth century that the instrument reached its zenith of popularity in the Old and New Worlds. By World War I interest in the mandolin had largely died out in America, but the instrument retained a passionate following in other countries, particularly Germany and Japan. Beginning in the 1970s the United States has experienced a revival of interest in classical mandolin. The contemporary American mandolin orchestra includes first and second mandolins (tuned like the violin), the mandola (viola), the mandocello (cello), the mandobass (string bass), and classical guitar as harmonic support.

The English composer Peter Philips left his native land in 1582 to avoid persecution as a Catholic. Philips settled in the Netherlands, where he became famous throughout Europe for his vocal and instrumental compositions. One of his best known pieces, "Pavan Passamezo" is a dance (a "pavan") consisting of a theme plus six variations on a "ground" or bass progression (the "passamezo").

Originally written for a six-part consort of viols, the work translates beautifully to an ensemble of plucked strings.

The remaining pieces on this evening's program were originally composed for mandolin orchestra. Two of the works, "Song of Japanese Autumn" by Yasuo Kuwahara (a virtuoso performer and one of the most important Japanese composers) and "Suite No. 6" by Hermann Ambrosius are classics of the modern repertoire. Claudio Mandonico's "Music for Play" draws on contemporary musical idioms while Jose Luis Barroso's "Concierto de Media Luna" evokes a fiery Spanish atmosphere with its allusions to flamenco harmonies and rhythms.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra has longed maintained an active program of commissioning new works for mandolin ensemble. Eva Kendrick is a composer and vocalist from Massachusetts; her "Country Fields" is a lovely, nostalgic piece that deftly evokes a pastoral setting well suited instrumentally to a mandolin ensemble. Clarice Assad is a composer, vocalist, and pianist living in New York City, and the daughter of the celebrated classical guitarist Sergio Assad. Written in honor of Sergio Assad, "Song for My Father" is filled with the subtle harmonies and infectious rhythms of the composer's native Brazil. Owen Hartford has written numerous pieces over his long tenure with the Orchestra. Featuring soaring melodies and unusual harmonic modulations, "Latin Sketches" receives its world premiere this evening. Francine Trester is Associate Professor of Composition at the Berklee School of Music in Boston. A prolific composer for voice, piano, guitar and other instruments, and a virtuoso violinist, Trester's music has been performed throughout the world and she has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards. "Movement #1" is the first of her "Three Movements for Mandolin Orchestra" which the Orchestra will perform in its entirety in 2007.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra was founded by the late Hibbard Perry in 1971. Since then, it has become one of the leading American mandolin ensembles, with regular 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, turn-of-the-century nostalgia, and avant-garde expressions. The group's unique tonality has inspired exciting new works by Clarice Assad, Will Ayton, Owen Hartford, Eva Kendrick, Barbara Kolb, Robert Martel, Michael Nix, Stephen Funk Pearson,