

PROGRAM NOTES  
By Robert Margo

As a classical instrument, the modern (four-course) 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 Europe and Japan. Beginning in the 1970s the United States has experienced a revival of interest in classical mandolin. Although much music written for classical mandolin is for soloists or small chamber groups, a unique body of work exists for the "mandolin orchestra," larger ensembles patterned after string orchestras. This evening's concert features two of the world's leading mandolin orchestras - the Providence Mandolin Orchestra (United States); and HET CONSORT (Zwolle, the Netherlands), on their first American tour.

With one exception (Jenkins) all of the works on this evening's program were originally composed for mandolin orchestra, most at the request of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra or Het Consort. Daughter of the celebrated classical guitarist Sergio Assad, Clarice Assad's "Song for My Father" is filled with the infectious melodies of her native Brazil. Owen Hartford is the PMO's resident composer. His "Latin Sketches" blends popular idioms with formal structures. A stew of minimalism and bouncy rhythms permeate Hartford's

"Groove #1", as well as Mark Davis's homage to his pet cat, one of the PMO's signature pieces. Jose Luis Barroso's "Concierto de Media Luna" evokes a fiery Spanish atmosphere with its allusions to flamenco harmonies and rhythms. Luca Mereu is an Italian composer whose works have been widely performed throughout Europe. Jurriaan Andriessen was a Dutch composer best known for his film and theatrical music. Raffaele Calace was the most famous of the early twentieth century composers for mandolin. Most of Calace's voluminous output is for chamber settings but he did produce a few remarkable works for orchestra, such as Op. 155. John Craton and Victor Kioulaphides are established contemporary composers who have written for mandolin in various settings. "The Legend of Princess Nocalula" is a programmatic work based on an ancient Indian legend about a Cherokee princess who chooses to end her life rather than be given away in marriage. The Kioulaphides's concerto was commissioned for Het Consort and received its world premiere in 2005, and its US premiere (by the PMO) in 2006.

The Concerto is in three movements, fast-slow-fast: a Sinfonia, a nocturno, and a Rondo finale, subtitled 'Telemanniana' fusing the gallantries of the Master from Magdeburg with the modern material of the earlier two movements". Famous as the theme music for a De Beers (diamond) commercial, "Palladio", by the British composer Karl Jenkins, was arranged for mandolin ensemble by Alex Timmerman.

### Playing the Mandolin - A Free Seminar

Tuesday, July 24, 7 p.m., at 101 Colonial Road, Providence, the Providence Mandolin Orchestra will hold a free seminar for anyone interested in learning more about the mandolin. Players of all ages and levels will get a chance to make music and learn a little about the history of the mandolin. If you'd like to reserve an instrument for this seminar, please take a minute to fill out the tear-off sheet below, and return it to the orchestra after the concert.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you play mandolin? Yes  Do you play another instrument?

# Providence MANDOLIN Orchestra

Mark M. Davis, Director

With Special Guest Artists

## HET CONSORT

Alex Timmerman, Director

Saturday, July 21st, 8 PM

St. Martin's Church  
50 Orchard Avenue  
Providence, RI

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Providence, RI 02906

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I.

- Groove #1 .....Owen Hartford  
Song for My Father .....Clarice Assad  
The Cat in Springtime .....Mark Davis  
Concierto de Media Luna .....Jose Luis Barroso  
    Recuerdos- Elegia- Danza

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

(Pause)

- Stifteteli - Hassapiko - Ballos.....Luca Mereu  
The Legend of Princess Noccalula .....John Craton  
    Sebastiaan de Grebber, mandolin solo  
Concerto per Strumenti, Op. 155 .....Raffaele Calace (1863-1964)

HET CONSORT

II.

- Palladio .....Karl Jenkins  
Canzone I .....Jurriaan Andriessen (1925-1996)  
Latin Sketches .....Owen Hartford  
Concerto per orchestra a pizzico .....Victor Kioulaphides  
    Allegro energico-Adagio molto-Allegro spiccato

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra and HET CONSORT



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

HET CONSORT gratefully acknowledges the support of the Fund for Amateur Arts and Performing Arts, The Netherlands.

THE PROVIDENCE MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: MARK DAVIS

- First Mandolin: Joshua Bell (concertmaster), Michael Cappelli, Yvette Cote,  
    Chang Lee  
Second Mandolin: C.W. Abbott, Lynne Bell, Bob Capaldi, Antonia Carlyon,  
    Owen Hartford, Rachel Panitch, Lisa Topakian, Paul Wilde  
Tenor Mandola: Mack Johnston, Will Melton, Gayle Raposa  
Octave Mandola: Robert Margo  
Mandocello: Duane Golomb, Dan Moore, Matt Snyder  
Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Christine Chito, Beverly Davis, Jeff Griffith  
Mandobass: Gino Cicchetti, Dave Parr  
String Bass: Bob Asprinio

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

HET CONSORT

DIRECTOR: ALEX TIMMERMAN

- First Mandolin: Sebastiaan de Grebber (concertmaster), Yolana Döpp,  
    Pauline Ulderink  
Second Mandolin: Ferdinand Binnendijk, Marian van Dijk,  
    Margareet van Litsenburg  
Octave Mandola: Helma Damman-Ruitenbergh, Ruth Rouw  
Mandoloncello: Niels Godart  
Classical Guitar: Frido Kuijman, Robert Streef, Tom Edskes  
Chitarrone Moderno: Marianne Timmerman-Holander

Het Consort, a mandolin chamber orchestra based in Zwolle, The Netherlands, was founded in 1990 by Alex Timmerman, in demand throughout Europe as a conductor, lecturer and as virtuoso on the guitar and mandolin. Het Consort has received worldwide recognition and awards, including the 'Honorary Award' by the Comunita Montana "Valle del Liri" (Lazio-Italy) in 2003. Contemporary composers who have written for Het Consort include Annette Kruisbrink, Marc Mathys, Luca Mereu, Victor Kioulaphides, John Craton, and Jeff Hijikema. Het Consort has performed extensively throughout Europe including Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, France, Spain and Italy. Of special note are the highly sought after bowl back instruments of Luigi Embergher used by Het Consort.