

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis Director

UCC Park Place, Pawtucket RI, May 17, 7:30 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) |
| A Lament for the Death of Polite Language | Robert Schultz |
| Music for Play <i>Entrata – Canzona – Ritmico</i> | Claudio Mandonico |

II.

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| Concerto in C Major, RV 425 <i>Allegro – Largo – Allegro</i> Mark Davis, mandolin soloist | Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) |
| Evening Sky | Robert Martel |
| Leonhard's Dream | James Kellaris |
| Sail Away | Randy Newman Arr. R. Margo |
| Je Te Veux | Eric Satie (1866-1925) Arr. J. Kellaris |
| Family Squabble | Owen Hartford |

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. 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?" The first half of the concert concludes with Claudia Mandonico's rock-influenced "Music for Play".

The Vivaldi concerto is one of a very small number of works for classical mandolin known to general audiences. "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. Our program concludes with James

Kellaris' idiomatic arrangement of Satie's lovely waltz, "Je Te Veux"; and Owen Hartford's "Family Squabble," another longtime PMO favorite.

Director: Mark Davis

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

Second Mandolin: Antonio Carlyon, Virginia Child, Owen Hartford, Jacob Paul, Paul Wilde

Liuto Moderno: Robert A. Margo

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Gail Raposa

Mandocello: Dan Moore

Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Raffi Donoian

Bass: Bryan Rizzuto

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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