



The Providence Mandolin Orchestra
Mark Davis, Director

With Special Guest Artists, Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse
Alain Corvocchiola, Director



St. Martin's Church
50 Orchard Avenue
Providence RI
November 3, 2007
8:00 PM

PROGRAM

I.

Three Galliards King of Denmark-Captain Digorie Piper-Earl of Essex	John Dowland (1563-1626)
Latin Sketches	Owen Hartford
Concierto de Media Luna Recuerdos- Elegia- Danza	Jose Luis Barroso
<i>Providence Mandolin Orchestra</i>	
(Pause)	
Il Signor Bruschino	Giachino Rossini (1792-1868)
The Girl with the Flaxen Hair	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Suite Espangole	Claudio Mandonico
<i>Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse</i>	

II.

Prelude (Act III, La Traviata)	Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
Cuban Landscape with Rain	Leo Brouwer
In a Persian Market	Albert W. Ketelbey (1880-1959)
<i>Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse</i>	
(Pause)	
Capriccio	Hans Gal (1890-1987)
Song of Japanese Autumn	Yasuo Kuwahara (1946-2003)
Music for Play Entrata- Canzona- Allegro	Claudio Mandonico
<i>The Providence Mandolin Orchestra and the Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse</i>	

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 in Europe and Japan. Beginning in the 1970s the United States has experienced a revival of interest in classical mandolin. This evening's concert features two of the leading mandolin orchestras worldwide, the Providence Mandolin Orchestra (Rhode Island); and the Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse (France).

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 European version is similar except that the octave mandola (a mandolin tuned one octave below the regular mandolin) often substitutes for the mandocello. European orchestras also generally use the traditional "bowlback" mandolin whereas American orchestras tend to use flat or carved back instruments that, in one way or another, are descended from instruments designed in the late nineteenth century by Orville Gibson.

The repertoire for mandolin orchestra includes both original works and arrangements. "Song of Japanese Autumn" by Yasuo Kuwahara (a virtuoso performer and one of the most important Japanese composers) is a certifiable classic, played by mandolin orchestras everywhere. Claudio Mandonico's "Music for Play" draws on contemporary musical idioms while his "Suite Espagnole" and Jose Luis Barroso's "Concierto de Media Luna" evoke a fiery Spanish atmosphere with allusions to flamenco harmonies and rhythms. Owen Hartford has written numerous pieces for the PMO over his long tenure with the group. Featuring soaring melodies and unusual harmonic modulations, "Latin Sketches" was premiered in 2006. An Austrian composer who spent much of his creative life in Scotland, Hans Gal is only now beginning to garner widespread recognition for his large catalog of works, including several using mandolin family instruments and classical guitar such as his "Capriccio". The three galliards by John Dowland are taken from his collection of 1604, *Lachrimae, or Seaven Teares Figured in Seaven Passionate Pavans, with Divers other Pavans, Galiards, and Almands, Set Forth for the Lute, Viols, or Violons, in Five Parts*. The lute part is based on Dowland's original with ornamentation and divisions added on repeats. The Debussy, Verdi, and Rossini, of course, are arrangements of much-beloved classical music. The Brouwer is also an arrangement (by Claudio Mandonico) of a work originally for guitar quartet, part of a series that the Cuban composer has written on a rain motif. Albert W. Ketelbey was one of the leading figures in the genre known as British Light Music; his "In a Persian Market", aptly titled, is one of his best known pieces, and transfers nicely to the mandolin orchestra idiom.

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. 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

One of Europe's leading mandolin orchestras, the **Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse** can date its origins back to 1886. The orchestra's repertoire includes both original works for

mandolin family instruments as well as arrangements of well-known works from the classical repertoire. Since 1978 the orchestra has been directed by Alain Corvocchiola, who joined the group in 1967 on mandolin. The orchestra performs regularly throughout Western Europe.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of the D'Addario Foundation and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Performers: The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Joshua Bell (concertmaster), Michael Cappelli,, Yvette Cote, Duane Golomb, Chang Lee, Rachel Panitch

Second Mandolin: C.W. Abbott, Lynne Bell, Bob Capaldi, Antonio Carlyon, Christine Chito, Owen Hartford, Lisa Topakian, Paul Wilde

Mandola: Mack Johnston, Robert Margo, Will Melton, Gayle Raposa

Mandocello: Seth Gruenwald, Dan Moore, Matt Synder

Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, Jeff Griffith, Robert Martel

Renaissance Lute (in G): Robert Margo

Bass: Gino Cichetti, Dave Parr

Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse

Director: Alain Corvocchiola

First Mandolin: Antolin-Soler Marie, Anais Bousquet, David Conan, Amandine Lafitte, Jean-Louis Llop, Paul Muselet, Dominique Mercier, Ada Owona, Collete Walczak-Le Roux

Second Mandolin: Paul Ablancourt, Benadette Andreu, Francoise Prat, Henri Prat, Mireille Cheilletz, Anais Dahmani, Mayeul Dahmani, Anne Dylla, Nicole Estavan-Benezeth, Gislhaine Failleres, Claudine Gillium, Michele Hanus, Christine Lair, Eliane Llop Esmeralda Mazzucato, Pablo Tapia, Francoise Zannese

Mandola: Andree Corvocchiola, Didier Le Roux, Marie-Clement Loupy, Francis Morello, Nathalie Morello

Mandocello: Christiane Granel, Odile Guillot, Jacques Zannese

Classical Guitar: Jean-Louis Bataille, Catherine Garnery, Vincent Guermontprez, Max Huot, Isabelle Josie, Guy Rosenthal, Laurence Mercier

Bass: Bastien Mercier

Flute: Fanny Chatelain, Elodie Penaud

Visit the websites of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra and the Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse for more information about the mandolin and its music.

Providence Mandolin Orchestra: www.mandolin-orchestra.org

Ensemble a Plectre de Toulouse: www.mandolinetoulouse.net