



Program II

Suite Espanola Enrique de Ulierte
 Fandango (19th c.)
 Granadina
 Malaguena
 Zapateado

Angels We Have Heard on High
 O Come O Come
 Masters In This Hall

Evening Sky Robert Martel
 Sky Colored Lake

Darlln' Corey Michael Nix
 (contemp.)

Thursday, Dec. 18 at 8 pm

Nowell Sing We Clear

A Pageant of Midwinter Carols

Why drive to Brattleboro this year to hear, see and join with **Nowell Sing We Clear** in their annual celebration of the midwinter season when we are lucky to have them perform right in our West County backyard?

The performance is stamped with the energetic dance band sound of fiddle, button accordian, electric piano, drums, concertina and includes traditional step dancing. This concert will be sold out. Buy your tickets tonight at intermission!

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Saturday, December 13, 1997

Ashfield Town Hall
Ashfield, Massachusetts



RURAL Renaissance

John Bos, Director
proudly presents

Mandolin Madness – Part 1

**PROVIDENCE
MANDOLIN
ORCHESTRA**

under the direction of
MARK DAVIS

sponsored by **LIGHTLIFE FOODS**

Program I

Concerto In G Giuseppe Giuliano
 Allegro ma non tanto (18th c.)
 Allegro
 Allegro assai
 Solists: Josh Bell & Bob Asprinio

Pavane Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
 (trans. by Jeff Dearing)

Here We Come A-Wassalling
 The March of the Kings
 Joy to the World

Walnut Valley Suite Bruce Graybill
 The Wake (contemp.)
 The Procession
 Ritual Dance

Intermission

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

By John Bos

REACHING A HALFWAY POINT

Next Thursday's appearance of **Nowell Sing We Clear** in **Ashfield Town Hall** marks the halfway point in the 1997-98 **RURAL Renaissance** season. It is a time to look back and to look forward.

We've learned a couple of important lessons. The first lesson is that lots of people absolutely love and support the presentation of accomplished performing artists in out-of-the-way Ashfield. Audience reaction and critical acclaim have been extraordinary.

That noted, the second lesson is that people lead extremely busy lives and cannot attend every event that they might like to. This seems to be particularly the case from just before Thanksgiving through Christmas. Add to that the numerous other arts offerings during this time of the year and the job of filling Town Hall becomes problematic. A most poignant example of this was the evening of December 5 when we presented **José González** and his **Criollo Clásico Quartet** on the same night as **Quetzal** rented the **Art Bank in Shelburne Falls** to present their own concert of Latin American music. The audience for each event was about 70 people which, combined, would have made up a typical **RURAL Renaissance** audience.

Also, like it or not, I have to acknowledge the fact that no matter how good the artist is, non-traditional or non-mainstream music and theater has a limited, built-in audience.

Ticket sales are the primary source of **RURAL Renaissance** operating funds. When we draw less than 150 people we're in financial trouble. A sell-out, of course, can help to offset a poor turnout. Thanks to consistent sponsorship support from **Mole Hollow Candles** and **Lightlife Foods** we're just managing to keep our heads above water. And, we're starting to receive funding support from other outside sources. That support will help come this Spring. Right now it's important to sell tickets. Tell your friends!

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PROVIDENCE MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA

"The resurgence of the **Providence Mandolin Orchestra**," stated the **Providence Journal** recently, "is part of a nationwide encore for an instrument whose popularity at the turn of the century would have rivaled that of rock n' roll today."

That is one of the reasons I came up with the notion of our "**Mandolin Madness**" series. In February, two other mandolin ensembles — the **Moser/Nix Duo** (Feb. 7) and the **Silk City Quartet** (Feb. 28) — will complete the three-concert mandolin series that the **PMO** kicks off tonight. **RURAL Renaissance** audiences will be able to hear the mandolin in three very different settings; in a duo paired with a guitar, in a quartet complemented by guitar, electric bass, violin, clarinet, keyboards and vocalists, and in the **PMO** with its multiplicity of mandolins, mandolas, mandocellos, guitars, and a single mandobass!

The **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** carries on a musical tradition that goes back to the 1880's when a group of Spanish bandurria players toured the U.S. and begat the craze for mandolin and guitar music that the **Providence Journal** refereed to. The **Journal** story stated that "Though mandolin orchestras were very popular in the early part of this century — indeed, Providence alone had three large mandolin orchestras back in the 1920's and 1930's — they generally faded from the scene as musical tastes changed."

But then along came **Hibbard Perry**, founder of one of those early mandolin orchestras, the **Providence Plectral Society**. It was Perry's dream to revive the orchestra, and that's what he did in 1973. Working with some of his former students, Perry renamed the group the **Providence Mandolin Orchestra**. In the years since its revival, membership in the **PMO** has jumped from 4 or 5 players to an orchestra of two dozen performers. Since Hibbard's death some years ago, the musical leadership of the **PMO** has been under the baton of **Mark Davis**, the director of the classical guitar program at the **University of Connecticut**.

Welcome to Mandolin Madness!

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Thomas Leue, President
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