

# Providence MANDOLIN Orchestra

Wednesday, February 4, 8 PM  
Mark M. Davis, Director

The Music Mansion  
88 Meeting Street  
Providence, Rhode Island

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Made possible in part by a grant from The  
D'Addario Foundation for the Performing Arts  
with support from J. D'Addario & Company, Inc  
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mandolin ensemble that draws inspiration from contemporary compositional practices such as rapid changes of meter, oblique harmonies, and repetitive texture. Based in Sydney, Caroline Szeto studied composition with Eric Gross and Peter Sculthorpe, and her chamber and large scale works have been performed by the Adelaide, Sydney, and Melbourne symphony orchestras. The PMO is fortunate indeed to have an accomplished composer, Owen Hartford, as one of its long-time members. The second of its kind, "Grooves #2" reflects Hartford's long-standing interest in blending elements of minimalism with soaring melodies.

The baroque period provides much grist for the would-be arranger of mandolin ensemble music. Handel, who actually wrote one original work using the mandolin, composed a large number of orchestral pieces that are well-suited to the sharp attack and rapid decay of the instrument such as the "Gigue" from his Concerto Grosso op. 6, no. 9, ably arranged by Owen Hartford. The Vivaldi duo concerto is one of the Red Priest's most famous works but it never fails to delight with its beautiful melodies and sprightly rhythms. Although one would not normally associate 1970s "glam rock" with the mandolin, Queen's beloved "Bohemian Rhapsody" is surprisingly faithful to the original - and great fun for the performers to play!

## PROGRAM NOTES by Robert Margo

The classical 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 passionate following in other parts of the world. In recent decades there has been a rebirth of interest in a classical mandolin in the United States and the internet has greatly facilitated interaction between American mandolin aficionados and those elsewhere in the world. This evening's concert by the Providence Mandolin Orchestra (PMO) and the two guest artists, Joseph Brent and Alon Sarel, reflects this newfound interaction by showcasing original compositions and arrangements for mandolin ensemble, as well as chamber works for mandolin.

Robert Schulz, the conductor of the West Australian Mandolin Orchestra, has written many works for mandolin ensemble. His provocatively titled "Lament for the Death of Polite Language" bemoans the current (mis)-use of the English language in daily life, "debased, shallow in content, full of clichés." The musical language is burnished with nostalgic Scottish melodies and harmonies, wistfully recalling a richer and more colorful era of expression. Highly demanding but rewarding to perform, "Stringing" by Caroline Szeto is an outstanding example of a new style of composition for man-



*Providence*  
**MANDOLIN**  
*Orchestra*

**THE PROVIDENCE MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA**

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*First Mandolin:* Joshua Bell (concertmaster), Michael Cappelli, Yvette Cc Duane Golomb, Chang Lee

*Second Mandolin:* Lynne Bell, Christine Chitro, Owen Hartford, Paul Wilde

*Mandola:* Gino Cicchetti, Mack Johnston, Gayle Raposa

*Mandocello:* Seth Gruenwald, Dan Moore, Matt Synder

*Classical Guitar:* Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, John Dennewitz

*Bass:* Dave Parr



Gigue (from *Concerto Grosso* Op. 6 No. 9) .....Georg Friedrich Handel (1685-1759)  
 Arr. O. Hartford

A Lament for the Death of Polite Language.....Robert Schulz

Grooves No. 2 .....Owen Hartford

Bohemian Rhapsody .....Queen, arr. Robert Kay

Pieces for mandolin solo and duo, TBA  
 Joseph Brent, mandolin  
 Alon Sariel, mandolin

Concerto for Two Mandolins, Strings, and.....Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Continuo, RV 53 .....Arr. S. Behrend  
 Joseph Brent, mandolin solo  
 Alon Sariel, mandolin solo

Stringing .....Caroline Szeto

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra was founded by the late Hibbard Per 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. The Providence Mandolin Orchestra fully acknowledges the support of the D'Addario Foundation.

Since graduating from the Berklee College of Music in 1999, Joseph Brent quickly established a reputation as one of United States leading performers on mandolin. A specialist in contemporary music, Brent has premiered or performed works by Elliot Carter, Pierre Boulez, Magnus Lindberg, Frank Zappa and many others. A member of the music faculty at Mannes College of Music in New York City, he also regularly performs with popular and jazz artists.

Winner of numerous international prizes, Alon Sariel is one of the world's leading performers on mandolin. Equally adept at baroque and contemporary styles and all stops between, Sariel has performed as soloist with the Jerusalem Radio Symphonic Orchestra and the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, among many others. His teachers include Ugo Orlandi, Carlo Aonza, and the jazz music Markkus Stockhausen.

Copies of the PMO's recent CD Spectrum will be available for purchase at today's concert. Visit the website of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra to purchase Spectrum on-line and to learn more about the mandolin and its music: [www.mandolin-orchestra.org](http://www.mandolin-orchestra.org). Visit [www.youtube.com/ProvidenceMandolin](http://www.youtube.com/ProvidenceMandolin) to see videos of recent and vintage performances by the PMO.