

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra (Mark Davis, Director)

Benefit Lawn Concert, Free Will Offering

North Meadow Farm, 158 East Old Route 6, Hampton CT

4:30 PM, August 28, 2021

Love's Like a Star	Herbert Francis Odell (1872 – 1926)
Ballet Egyptien	Alexandre Luigini (1850-1906), arr. M. Bickford
Rêverie de Poete	Giuseppe Manente (1867 – 1941)
Tafelmusik	Konrad Wölki (1904 - 83)
<i>Poco allegretto – Adagio – Allegro</i> <i>Marciale – Poco allegretto</i>	
Hand-Painted Soundscapes (2017)	Stephen Lalor
<i>Song of the Yellow Quinces – Moonlight</i> <i>In Lombok – Balmain Bossa</i>	
Verano Porteño	Astor Piazzolla (1921 – 92), arr. R. Margo
Au Café Cardamome (2019)	James Kellaris

Program Notes by Robert Margo: This is the first in a series of concerts to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the modern Providence Mandolin Orchestra in the early 1970s. Each of these programs features music from the different periods of PMO history. The original PMO was founded in 1911 by William Place Jr, a student of Guiseppe Pettine's, and one of the leading performers of the mandolin's "Golden Age" in early twentieth century America. Among the characteristic pieces in its repertoire was the sentimental waltz that opens our program, Herbert Francis Odell's, *Love's Like a Star*. The first PMO disbanded around WWI.

The next phase in the PMO saga involves Hibbard Perry, a student of Pettine's and Place's. In the late 1920s Perry opened a music studio in Providence and, soon after, founded the Providence Plectral Society (PPS). Under the PPS umbrella Perry regularly put on concerts in the Providence area featuring his students in different ensembles, one of which was a mandolin orchestra. The PPS programs never identified this group as the "Providence Mandolin Orchestra" — just "Mandolin Orchestra". However, Perry took his students to national mandolin conventions in the 1930s, at which they participated in (and occasionally won) performance contests. The rules for the mandolin orchestra

contest required that Perry's group have a name, for which purpose he called it the "Providence Mandolin Orchestra". The excerpt from Alexandre Luigini's *Ballet Egyptien* (arranged by Myron Bickford) was performed at a PPS concert on June 17, 1937, at Churchill House in Providence RI (now part of Brown University). As far as we know, the PPS never played Giuseppe Manente's *Rêverie de Poete* but similar Italian works from the era were programmed. The PPS ceased operations in 1942, a casualty of world war, like the first PMO.

In the early 1970s Perry revived his 1930s mandolin orchestra, relying again on students to populate the group -- including Mark Davis, who began studying with Perry in 1973. One of the most famous of modern German works for plucked strings, Wölki's *Tafelmusik* was a mainstay of PMO programs in the early 1980s. Davis took over after Perry's retirement in 1989; under Mark's baton, the PMO has concentrated primarily on contemporary repertoire. The Australian composer Stephen Lalor wrote *Hand Painted Soundscapes* for the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. James Kellaris' *Au Café Cardamome* draws on Greek music for its inspiration and features extended techniques, such as tapping the instrument and plucking behind the nut and bridge. Arranged by longtime PMO member Robert Margo, "Verano Porteño" is the "summer" movement of Astor Piazzolla's *Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas* (The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires).

The **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** (PMO) is:

Director: Mark Davis

First Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Christine Chito, John Rufo

Second Mandolin: Mark Chuoke, Marcie Glicksman, Michael Raymond Jr, Paul Wilde

Mandola in C: Gayle Raposa

Mandola in G: Robert Margo

Mandocello: Christine Perkins, Oliver Reid

Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, James Macartney, Sze Ning Mak

Bass: Peter DeCicco, Hiatt Knapp

Flute, Recorder: Michael Raymond, Jr

The original **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** was founded in 1911 by William Place Jr, lasting until 1919. The modern PMO dates from the early 1970s, 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 many pieces written for the ensemble. Mark Davis, who pursues an active career as a performer on guitar, mandolin, teacher, and conductor, is the PMO's music director.

Visit the PMO on the web ([www.providencemandolin.org](http://www.providencemandolin.org)), Facebook, ReverbNation, and YouTube.