

Music for Plucked Strings

Mark & Beverly Davis Guitar Duo

and

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis, Director

The Bread Box Theater

220 Valley Street, Willimantic CT

Sunday, February 27, 4 PM

Program

I.

- Suita Karussel Milan Tesař (1938 - 2019)
Intermezzo – Aria - Finale
- Tempo di Minuetto (from *Suite all'Antica*) Guido Santorsola (1904 - 1994)
- Selections from *Chords & Thyme* Edward Flower
Barbara Allen - The Grey Cock - Wild Mt. Thyme

Mark and Beverly Davis, classical guitars

II.

- Concertino No. 1 for Recorder and Zupforchester Gustav Gunsenheimer
Michael J. Raymond, Jr, recorder
- Rêverie de Poète Giuseppe Manente (1867 – 1941)
- Three Songs Randy Newman, arr. R. Margo
Sail Away – In Germany, Before the War – Baltimore
- Movement #1 (from *Three Movements for Mandolin Orchestra*) Francine Trester
- Café Cárdamome* James Kellaris

*World Premiere

Program Notes (by Robert Margo). The first half of today's concert is by the acclaimed classical guitar duo of Mark and Beverly Davis. *Suita Karussel*, written in 1992 by the Czech composer Milan Tesař, is featured on the Duo's recording, "Ayres and Dances for Two Guitars". "Tempo di Minuetto" is the second movement of Uruguayan composer Guido Santorsola's wonderful *Suite all'Antica*, a tribute to the music of the Baroque era. Ed Flower's beautiful duets are based on early folk music from the British Isles.

The second half features the Providence Mandolin Orchestra (PMO) directed by Mark Davis. The Gusenheimer concerto is one of the classics of the modern German literature for "zupforchester" (plucked string orchestra). Manete's *Rêverie* is a characteristic "tremolo" work from the mandolin's Golden Age in the early twentieth century.

Unquestionably one of America's greatest songwriters, Randy Newman's words and music plumb the full range of human behavior, along with controversial social and political topics, in unabashedly satirical and ironic terms. In *Sail Away*, a slave trader attempts to lure Africans onto a slave ship bound for Charleston by (falsely) promising that, [i]n America, every man is free[.]” The brooding, spooky, *In Germany, Before the War*, was inspired by Fritz Lang's classic movie “M”. The impoverished narrator of *Baltimore* dreams of “buying a big old wagon” to escape a city where “it's hard just to live”. *Sail Away* is from the 1972 album of the same title and *In Germany* and *Baltimore* are from 1977's *Little Criminals*.

Francine Trester is an award-winning composer from Boston's Berklee School of Music. The PMO performs the first movement of her remarkable *Three Movements for Mandolin Orchestra*, commissioned for the group in 2006. James Kellaris is one of the today's leading composers for plucked strings (and, in his “day” job, the James S. Womack/Gemini Corporation Professor of Signage and Visual Marketing at the University of Cincinnati). The PMO is thrilled to give the world premiere of Kellaris' latest work for mandolin orchestra, which features extended techniques and extensive use of Greek melodies, rhythms, and harmonies.

Beverly Davis has been involved in plucked string ensembles since the 1980's when she studied classical guitar with Reed Desrosier. A long-time member and former president of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra, Davis directed the 2001 International Festival of Mandolins in Providence, Rhode Island. **Mark Davis** began his guitar and mandolin studies with Hibbard Perry in Rhode Island and continued his musical training with the eminent German guitarist Siegfried Behrend. Davis has performed widely in the United States and abroad and has made numerous recordings. He has been the Music Director of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra since 1989. Visit Mark and Beverly Davis on Facebook, Soundcloud, YouTube, and at http://markmdavis.com/mark_and_beverly_davis.

The original **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** was founded in 1911 by William Place Jr, one of the leading players of the era. The modern version of the PMO dates from the early 1970s, when it was revived by Hibbard Perry, a former student of Place's. Since then, the PMO has become one of the leading American mandolin ensembles with regular performances throughout the eastern United States and Western Europe. Visit the Providence Mandolin on Facebook, Soundcloud, YouTube, and at <http://www.providencemandolin.org/>.

The **Providence Mandolin Orchestra** (Mark Davis, Director) is:

First Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Christine Chito, John Rufo

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

Mandola in C: Gayle Raposa

Mandola in G: Robert Margo

Mandocello: Oliver Reid
Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, James Macartney
Bass: Hiatt Knapp

Selected lyrics by Randy Newman:

Sail Away

In America, you get food to eat ...
You just sing about Jesus and drink wine all day
It's great to be an American ...

(Chorus): Sail away, sail away
We will cross the mighty ocean, into Charleston Bay ...

In Germany, Before the War

In Germany, before the War
There was a man who owned a store
In Nineteen Hundred, Thirty-Four
In Dusseldorf
And every day at five of nine
He'd cross the park down to the Rhine
And sit there by the shore ...

Baltimore

Beat up little seagull
On a marble stair
Tryin' to find the ocean
Lookin' everywhere

Hard times in a city
In a hard town by the sea
Ain't nowhere to run to
Ain't nothin' here for free ...

(Chorus): Oh, Baltimore
Man, it's hard, just to live
Oh, Baltimore
Man, it's hard, just to live
Just to live.