

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Mark Davis, director
Hingham Public Library
66 Leavitt Street
Hingham MA

April 6, 2008, 3:30 PM

Palladio

Karl Jenkins

Cinco Piezas

Joshua Bell, mandolin solo

Luis Gianneo (1897-1968)

arr. J. Craton

Vidala-Cancion Incaica-Chacarera-Cancion de Cuna-Zapateado

Dreamtime

Annette Kruisbrink

Song for My Father

Clarice Assad

Pause

Impressioni Orientale, Op. 132

Raffaele Calace (1863-1934)

Lament for Kosovo

(US premiere, version for mandolin ensemble)

Betty Beath

Three Movements for Mandolin Orchestra

Francine Trester

Allegro Maestoso-Un poco lamentoso- Allegro con spirito

Fine

Program Notes by Robert A. Margo

The repertoire for mandolin orchestra includes arrangements and original works. Familiar from its use as the theme music in a DeBeers (diamond) commercial, Karl Jenkins' "Palladio" has been expertly arranged for mandolin orchestra by Alex Timmerman, director of the Dutch group 'Het Consort'. Luis Gianneo was one of earliest Argentine composers of the twentieth century to make use of folk idioms in his work such as the "Cinco Piezas [Five Pieces]" for violin and piano written in 1942. Mandolin aficionados treasure a 1960s LP recording by the German mandolinist Jacob Thomas that included Gianneo's setting of three of the pieces ("Chacarera", "Vidala", and "Zapateado") for solo mandolin and string orchestra which were presented in a different order from the original and called the "Suite Argentina" on the album jacket. The American composer John Craton recently made his own arrangement of all five pieces for solo mandolin and mandolin orchestra with the original order and title restored, and it is the Craton version that the PMO performs this afternoon.

The remaining works on the program are original compositions for mandolin orchestra. Annette Kruisbrink is a Dutch composer who has written extensively for guitar in solo and chamber music settings. According to the composer, "'Dreamtime' is a fusion of dreams ... [on] the one hand there are the hurried Western people who do not consider dreams ... as important ... [then] there is the Aboriginals' world in which dreams are directly connected with life and the hereafter[.]" Clarice Assad is a pianist, vocalist, and composer living in New York City and the daughter of the celebrated classical guitarist Sergio Assad. Composed for the PMO and included on its recent CD Spectrum, "Song for My Father" pays homage to the composer's native Brazil with the piquant melodies and syncopated rhythms. Filled with unusual scales and harmonies, Raffaele Calace's "Impressioni Orientale" was written aboard ship during the composer's return from a triumphant tour of Japan in the 1920s. Beatty Beath is a contemporary Australian composer with an extensive catalog of chamber and orchestral works. Written originally for the Sydney Mandolins, "Lament for Kosovo" has been performed worldwide in a later version for string orchestra, including by the Rhode Island Philharmonic. The composer remarks that "Lament for Kosovo" was "written ... [at] a time when the tragic events taking place in what was previously Yugoslavia were constantly before us in graphic images; since then the tragedy has widened to many parts of the world. Feelings of deep sadness and anger were uppermost in my heart and mind ... 'Lament for Kosovo' expresses sorrow for the suffering of all innocent people caught up in war and destruction." The concert closes with a remarkable new piece for mandolin ensemble, Francine Trester's "Three Movements", which the Orchestra premiered in 2007. An Associate Professor of Composition at the Berkeley School of Music, Trester's award-winning vocal and instrumental work has been performed throughout the United States, Europe, and in Australia.

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.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of the D'Addario Foundation.

The Providence Mandolin Orchestra

Director: Mark Davis

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

Second Mandolin: Lynne Bell, Christine Chito, Owen Hartford, Paul Wilde

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

Mandocello: Seth Gruenwald, Matt Synder

Classical Guitar: Mark Armstrong, Beverly Davis, John Dennewitz, Jeff Griffith

Bass: Gino Cicchetti, Dave Parr

"Song for My Father" is featured on the Providence Mandolin Orchestra's CD Spectrum. Copies of 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. Visit www.youtube.com/ProvidenceMandolin to see videos of recent and vintage performances by the PMO.