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AUSTIN
MANDOLIN
ORCHESTRA

10TH ANNIVERSARY
2015

*Fifteen Minutes of Fame
Austin Mandolin Orchestra*

Blackerby Recital Hall - Austin Texas
March 8th, 2015 at 7pm



...Program

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME: AUSTIN MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA WORLD PREMIERE

Wild Onion Rag – **Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni**

Persephonia – **James J. Kellaris**

Canción de la Chamiza – **Erik Branch**

Texas Paintbrush – **Joanna Asher**

Palo Duro Blossoms – **Barry Trott**

Galliardia Pulchella – **Daniel Grantham**

History of a Texas Wildflower – **Owen Hartford**

Fantasia on “Yellow Rose” – **John R. Akins**

Harp Dandelion-Khatutik – **Aram Petrosyan**

The Texas Three Step (Yellow Eyed Grass) – **John Egenes**

Spotflower (Acmella Oppositifolia) – **David Bohn**

*As Our Landscape Reawakens (from Angeltrumpets to
Zephyrlillies)* – **Rodrigo Baggio**

I Found My Rose in Austin – **Blair Whittington**

When String Lily Meets Devil’s Shoestring – **Jean-Pierre Vial**

Spanish Dagger – **Philip Dewalt**

Bios & Program Notes

Austin Mandolin Orchestra is directed by **Joel Hobbs**.

MANDOLINS – Kevin Knippa, Joane Rylander, Darlene Gamble, Lloyd Pond, Dale Albright, Hester Lillie Denniston, Joyce Snodgrass, Nancy Lynch, Stefan Passernig, Matthew Lyons

MANDOLAS – Oscar Ramos, Laurie Turner, Richard Somers

MANDOCELLOS – Dede Hurson, Thomas Chapmond, Dianna Christian

GUITARS – Jay Clement, Brian Ellis

DOUBLE BASS – special guest, Dana Wygmans

Wild Onion Rag is a down-home Texas tribute to the wildflowers that spring up in cooler weather in our landscapes. Wild onions have long, thin leaves and clusters of small, white blossoms. Wild turkeys dine on them, and the bruised bulbs can be used to treat wasp stings (good thing).

Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni is a composer, accordionist, and harpist with the Celtic and traditional band Jalapeño Honey in College Station, Texas. Her setting of 3 tunes by the 18th century Scottish composer James Oswald has been recorded by Marilynn Mair's mandolin and guitar ensemble Enigmatica.



Persephonia – The earth trembles as the captive Persephone is released to dance once again in the sunlight of the meadows. Wildflowers spring forth in her footprints, each bearing joyful witness to spring's return. Hades is vexed. The flowers join together to sing *Persephonia* – a universal song of light's triumph over darkness.

James Kellaris began playing his grandfather's mandolin at age five and continued to play plucked strings for five decades. A focal dystonia in his left hand ("musician's cramp") recently forced James into early retirement as a performer. Lemons to lemonade, he started composing for the instruments he loves.



Canción de la Chamiza – A wagon train crossing the vast, windswept desert, stopping at a spring, is greeted by the Chamiza (chamiso, "four-wing saltbush"), whose thatch of green shrub and greyish-white leaves catch the traveler's eye. Had they had mandolins and guitars with them, they, too, might have sung the "*Canción de la Chamiza*."

Erik Branch – is a native of NYC, and received a BA and MA in Music (Composition) from Hunter College. He lives near Orlando, Florida, where he is active as a pianist, musical director, composer/arranger, operatic tenor, and actor on stage and screen.

...Bios & Program Notes



Texas Paintbrush – Sometimes you need to stop and smell the flowers... the wildflowers. Enjoy a romp through the meadow with melodies that will take you to a field of red Texas Paintbrush in May just for a moment.

Johanna Asher is a guitarist new to composing with roots in the Atlanta, Georgia music scene. Having composed for the Walden School Creative Musicians program, she loves applying her study of theory to creating new pieces with accessible melodies. Grounded in folk music, Johanna has studied with many local musicians.



Palo Duro Blossoms – I have been fortunate enough to spend some time in the Palo Duro Canyon area of Texas. The inspiration for this piece drew on my recollection of the blossoming flowers emerging from the dark as the sun rose. The colors of the earth and the flowers are a potent memory.

Barry Trott has performed on early mandolin for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation since 1984. He was a founding member of the Hampton Roads Mandolin Ensemble and has written about early mandolin for Mandolin Quarterly. In addition to playing 18th century music, he performs oldtime music with the Runaway String Band.



Every spring, a field of ***Gaillardia Pulchella*** near my parents' house in Austin blooms starting from single, distinct flowers until it reaches a density where the individual blossoms are lost, only to reverse the process as summer progresses. Gaillardia pulchella is combined with galliard, a six beat Renaissance dance.

Daniel Grantham – Originally from Austin, he currently lives in Denton, Texas and is working towards a Master's of Music degree from the University of North Texas. His field of study focuses on the early music of György Ligeti. Recently, he has had premieres in Texas, Michigan, and Italy.



History of a Texas Wildflower is intended to give an impression of the evolution of a small plant into it's final expression as a flower. There are places of calm as well as difficulty and with roots and stems growing in different directions.

...Bios & Program Notes

Owen Hartford – I am a member of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra and I have composed many pieces for mandolin orchestra that have been performed throughout Europe and America. I was awarded 2nd prize in the José Fernández Rojas 2012 competition. I've written a children's opera that has been performed both in the United States and in Australia.



Fantasia on "Yellow Rose" – Upon seeing the call for scores a week before deadline, I thought, "What could I do, not having composed for mandolins before?" Then, as a former Texas resident, "Yellow Rose of Texas" started whirling in my head, and here is the resultant score.

John R. Akins – BM and MM in theory/composition from Southern Methodist University and DMA in composition from the University of Texas, Austin. He has taught at Texas Lutheran College, at the University of Maine at Machias, and at Evangel University, Springfield, MO. He has membership in SCI, SEAMUS, and CFAMC.



My composition is about Harp Dandelion: which grows in Armenia too and is one of my favorite flowers. The Armenian name is Khatutik. That's why I titled my composition *Harp Dandelion-Khatutik*....but I would call it "*Hippopotamus running behind of the dandelion seed*"

Aram Petrosyan – Composer, poet, translator, specialist of ancient folk & church music, narekatsiaget, sharakanaget, music editor.



The **Texas Three Step (Yellow Eyed Grass)** grows in the Texas Coastal Plain region. Having played Texas two-steps and waltzes for dancers all over Texas, its 3-petal yellow flowers inspired me to write a waltz in 6/8. Bluebonnets come to mind when Texas flowers are mentioned, but only a Texan will know about the Yellow Eyed Grass, and it's beautiful little flower.

John Egenes is a multi-instrumentalist and composer/songwriter from Santa Fe, now living in New Zealand. Recording credits include performances on all mandolin family instruments, as well as acoustic and electric guitars, Dobro, pedal steel, banjo, accordion, and musical saw. He has a soft spot in his heart for mandolin orchestras.



Spotflower (Acmella Oppositifolia) – The spot flower is part of a family of flowers that can sometimes be hard to differentiate. I'm told that some have a more colorful name for this particular family.

...Bios and Program Notes

David Bohn received degrees in composition from the University of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, and the University of Illinois. He currently is the music director at St. John's Lutheran Church in West Milwaukee. He is the President of the Wisconsin Alliance for Composers.



As Our Landscape Reawakens (from Angeltrumpets to Zephyrlilies)

The blossoming of the wildflowers... the peculiar landscape... the promise of Spring... a variety of shades and expectations!

Rodrigo Baggio – Guitarist/Composer (São Paulo/Brazil). His music has been performed in many cities around the world such as São Paulo (Brazil), Paris (France), Quebec (Canada), Bremen (Germany), London (England), Bucharest (Romania), Vermont, New York and Washington DC (USA). As a performer, he has played concerts in different countries of the globe.



I Found My Rose in Austin is a gentle melodic piece designed for a community mandolin orchestra.

Blair Whittington is a Los Angeles based composer who concentrates mainly on chamber and orchestral music. He studied composition with Byong-kon Kim and has worked for 19 years as music librarian at the Brand Library & Art Center in Glendale, California.



When String Lily Meets Devil's Shoestring – String Lily and Devil's shoestring are two kinds of 'stringed' flowers that grow wild in Texas. In this short piece, each kind of flower is related to a specific theme, with both themes sharing the counterpoint of the piece. Let the audience choose which is which!

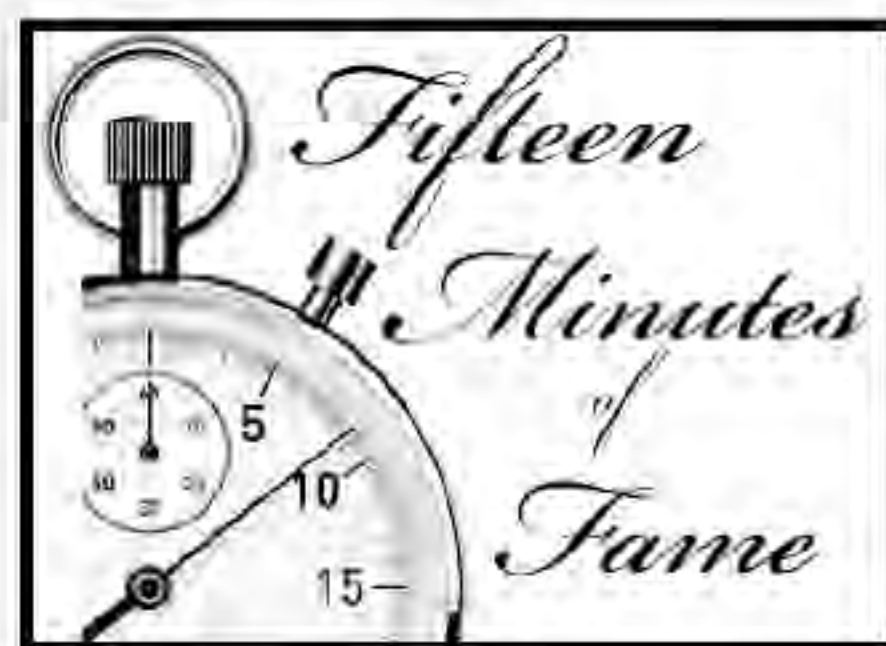
Jean-Pierre Vial – French, former software designer. At an early age, he learned the piano, the organ, and composed several pieces for both instruments. Over the last two years, various soloists and small ensembles have performed his music in France, Italy, Portugal, the UK and in the US.



...Bios and Program Notes

The **Spanish Dagger** is a yucca plant with a distinctive bloom and stiff, pointy dagger-like leaves. The leaves are sharp enough to pierce the skin if you're not careful. My composition is an attempt to fuse a musical impression of this impressive plant's dangerous attitude with distinctly Spanish motifs.

Philip DeWalt is a composer, pianist and mandolinist from Kansas City, Missouri. Among his compositions are numerous works for piano, mandolin solo/orchestra, chamber ensemble, string quartet, orchestra, chorus and electronics. He's a former orchestra teacher and is currently finishing his composition DMA at the University of Missouri Kansas City.



Vox Novus is a collective of composers, musicians, and music enthusiasts collaborating together to create, produce, promote, and enjoy the new music of today. Special thanks to **Robert Voisey** and **Douglas DaSilva** at **Vox Novus** for their leadership and hard work to make this concert possible.

For more information about concerts and composer opportunities:
www.voxnovus.com

Austin Mandolin Orchestra is proud to host the 29th Annual Convention of the Classical Mandolin Society of America in Austin October 14-17th. We will be a featured performer on the Friday night concert, October 16th. A Saturday night grand finale concert will feature international guest artists and a 100+ member mandolin orchestra. Additional lunch-time and evening concerts daily.

For more information about attending free concerts, volunteering or becoming a full convention participant:

www.amandolinorchestra.com
www.classicalmandolinsociety.org

