



PRESS RELEASE

Mike Marshall Performs Northwest Premiere of Mandolin Concerto with Seattle Mandolin Orchestra

Monday, June 16, 8 P.M.

FROM: Seattle Mandolin Orchestra
8027 242nd St. SW, Edmonds, WA 98026
CONTACT: Martin Stillion, 425.673.0263,
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RE: Performance at Driftwood Players
COST: \$23

Driftwood Players presents “Mandolin Magic” featuring Mike Marshall with the Seattle Mandolin Orchestra and Emerald City Mandolin Quartet, Monday, June 16, 2008, 8 P.M. at Driftwood Players Wade James Theatre, 950 Main St., Edmonds, WA 98020. Tickets: 425.774.9600.

Mike Marshall will give the Northwest premiere of his new Mandolin Concerto, accompanied by the Seattle Mandolin Orchestra. Well known to Seattle-area audiences from multiple local appearances, Marshall is one of the most accomplished and versatile acoustic musicians performing today.

“This concert is a rare opportunity to hear a new work for the mandolin in an orchestral setting, written and performed by one of the instrument’s leading exponents,” said Martin Stillion of the Seattle Mandolin Orchestra. “We’re in the midst of a mandolin renaissance. It’s only in the past few years that composers have returned to writing mandolin concertos of this scale. There hasn’t been this much interest in the mandolin since the 1920s, and prior to that you’d have to go back to the 17th and 18th centuries. And while Mike’s concerto borrows from American and Brazilian folk music, it also bears the influence of composers from Bach and Purcell to Peter Maxwell Davies. This is only the second time it has been performed, so it’ll be quite an experience for both musicians and audience.”

Marshall will also conduct a mandolin workshop at Dusty Strings in Fremont on Tuesday, June 17, at 10:30 A.M. Call 206.634.1662 for more information.

A virtuoso whose playing is as imaginative and adventurous as it is technically thrilling, Marshall swings gracefully from jazz to classical to bluegrass to Latin styles, putting his own stamp on everything he plays with an unusually potent blend of intellect, humor and emotion. He has performed and recorded with many of the top names in acoustic music, including David Grisman, Tony Rice, Mark O’Connor, Chris Thile, Stephane Grappelli, Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, Darol Anger and classical violin virtuoso Joshua Bell. Among his many achievements, Marshall founded the Modern Mandolin Quartet, which released four recordings for Windham Hill Records and received a “Meet the Composer” grant from the Lila Wallace Foundation. He also established the prestigious annual Mandolin Symposium at the University California in Santa Cruz, where five of the greatest mandolinists teach over 150 mandolin students from around the world. For more information, visit www.mikemarshall.net.

In addition to playing the concerto with Marshall, **the Seattle Mandolin Orchestra** will present several other works, including the G major concerto by 18th-century German composer Johann Adolf Hasse, with musical director Alan Jacobson as soloist. Founded in 1968, the orchestra is dedicated to revitalizing America’s mandolin ensemble tradition. Featuring the entire mandolin family of instruments, including mandolin, mandola, mandocello and mandobass, the group performs throughout the Seattle area. Its repertoire encompasses classical, folk and international selections. Mandolin players of all skill levels are welcome to join. Visit www.seattlemandolin.org for more information.

Also performing will be **the Emerald City Mandolin Quartet**. Founded in 1996, the quartet blends the expressive concepts of the traditional violin-family string quartet with the sounds of plucked string ensembles. Its playing style is based on the tremolo technique of New York mandolin virtuoso Sol Goichberg, who strove to establish the mandolin as a legitimate classical instrument in America. The quartet’s debut CD, *Night Music*, is now available. For more information, visit www.ecmq.net.

To purchase tickets (\$23), call the Driftwood Players box office at 425.774.9600.