GRAMMY WINNING MANDOLIN VIRTUOSO CHRIS THILE PERFORMS SOLO CONCERT AT JORGENSEN

Sat, Nov 21, 2015 at 8:00 pm

Lauded by The Independent [London] as “the most remarkable mandolinist in the world”, multiple Grammy award-winning musician, composer, and vocalist Chris Thile will take the Jorgensen stage on Saturday evening, November 21st to captivate audiences with an inspired performance of classical and contemporary compositions, progressive bluegrass tunes, and original songs. The highly anticipated one-man concert, which takes place in the chamber setting at UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, begins at 8:00 pm. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

A virtuoso on the mandolin by his early teens, Thile’s prodigious talents both on the fretboard and as a singer/songwriter gained international attention through his work in the award-winning acoustic music trio Nickel Creek, whose 2002 album, This Side, won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Folk Album and solidified the group’s position as one of the most original and inventive bluegrass band to emerge in the new millennium.

Thile later went on in 2006 to form the critically acclaimed Punch Brothers: a five-man string ensemble which Thile described as “a bluegrass band with a lot of range”. The Punch Brothers’ innovative style uses traditional bluegrass instruments (mandolin, banjo, guitar, violin, and bass) and blends elements of classical, jazz, and folk music. The New York Times said the group “expands the frontier of an emerging style of what might be called American country-classical chamber music.”

In addition to his remarkable technical playing skills, what sets Thile above his contemporaries is his innate ability to successfully combine apparently dissimilar musical forms; to blend diverse musical genres and invent new sounds, textures, and hybrid musical categories.

“What’s really important is the way that a musician handles the building blocks and the pillars of what music is all about; the way that they manipulate melody, harmony, rhythm and form to achieve their purposes, and the degree of skill and creativity they use to handle those things, says Thile. “In that sense, the very best examples of music, for instance bluegrass and classical, seem to have more in common than not in common.”

Thile has released five solo albums, and performed and recorded extensively with bassist Edgar Meyer and fellow mandolinist Mike Marshall. In 2011, Thile earned a Grammy nomination for Sleep with One Eye Open, an album of tradition-upending interpretations of bluegrass classics with guitarist Michael Daves. He won the 2012 Grammy for Best Folk Album for The Goat Rodeo Sessions, which he recorded with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Stuart Duncan, and Meyer.

In 2012, the MacArthur Foundation named Thile one of its 23 MacArthur Fellows and recipient of its prestigious “Genius Grant”, awarded to “show exceptional merit and promise for continued and enhanced creative work.”

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CHRIS THILE, continued

Thile's most recent solo recording, *Bach: Partitas and Sonatas, Vol.1*, was released in late 2013. Thile and Meyer's second duo recording, *Bass & Mandolin*, was released in late 2014 and won a Grammy in 2015 for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album.

The 34-year-old American-born musical artist is also a charming raconteur and was recently named the new host of American Public Media's iconic radio program, *A Prairie Home Companion*, succeeding the show's creator, Garrison Keillor.

For more information about the artist please visit www.facebook.com/ChrisThile.

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state’s educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor seats - $36, Mezzanine - $32.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient $5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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