# Chris Thile





#### **CHRIS THILE**

Multiple Grammy Award-winner and MacArthur Fellow Chris Thile, a member of Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek, is a mandolin virtuoso, composer, and vocalist. With his broad outlook that encompasses classical, rock, jazz, and bluegrass, Thile transcends the borders of conventionally circumscribed genres, creating a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike.

As a soloist, Thile has released five albums including his most recent released in 2013, Bach: Partitas and Sonatas, Vol.1, which was produced by renowned bassist Edgar Meyer. In February 2013, Thile won a Grammy for his work on The Goat Rodeo Sessions, collaborating with Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Stuart Duncan. Then, in September 2014, Thile and Meyer released their latest album collaboration, Bass + Mandolin, which won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Punch Brothers released their latest album, The Phosphorescent Blues, in January 2015.

On this new program, Thile performs solo violin works by J.S. Bach on the mandolin, as well as his own compositions and contemporary music.

Selections will be announced from the stage.



# Las Cafeteras Meets Iowa at the Corner of Art and Activism

Las Cafeteras participated in a range of activities during their weeklong residency with Hancher, which focused on celebrating diversity, building and strengthening communities, and sharing the Latino cultural traditions of Son Jarocho. In advance of their September 25<sup>th</sup> Club Hancher performance, the group visited with third and fourth graders at Lucas Elementary, English Language Learners at City High School, and theatre, arts management, history, and rhetoric students at the University of Iowa.

The East Los Angeles-based band also engaged with community groups while in residence. They participated in a lively conversation about diversity on the University of Iowa campus with members of the student group ALMA (Association of Latinos Moving Ahead) at the Latino-Native American Cultural Center. Las Cafeteras turned their attention toward encouraging local activists when they stopped by the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa.

Photos by Miriam Alarcón Avila









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Dance theatre company Lucky Plush Productions participated in a week-long residency leading up to their performance of *The Queue* this past September. Ensemble members engaged with students in several departments in the Division of Performing Arts, facilitating workshops in dance, choreography, arts education, and arts management. Students participating in workshops at Mann Elementary were treated to a short performance before being invited to create dance theatre pieces of their own.

All photos by Miriam Alarcón Avila



**Above:** Lucky Plush company member Melinda Myers led three UI dance classes. **Below:** Lucky Plush founding artistic director Julia Rhoads spoke to students in an Arts Leadership Seminar at the University of Iowa.

**Opposite:** Company members Benjamin Wardell, Elizabeth Luse, and Marc Macaranas conducted workshops at Horace Mann Elementary School.











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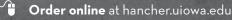
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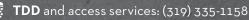
#### Friday, December 11 at 7:30 pm The Englert Theatre

He's the patriarch of one of the most famous families in music, and he's bringing the holiday cheer from New Orleans to Iowa City. **Ellis Marsalis** has been a central figure in jazz as both a performer and educator, influencing multiple generations of players. Perhaps the premier modern jazz pianist from the Crescent City, Marsalis boasts a list of protégés that includes Terence Blanchard, Nicholas Payton, Harry Connick Jr., and four musicians who share his last name. This night of holiday music will bring his own considerable talents to the fore.





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