



MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT

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FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jan. 14, 2009

Punch Brothers with Chris Thile Play the Mondavi Center

Davis, Calif.—The **Punch Brothers** perform **Saturday, Feb. 14, at 8 p.m.** in **Jackson Hall** of the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts**, UC Davis. The group features five of the hottest, most innovative young pickers in modern bluegrass, including mandolin virtuoso **Chris Thile of Nickel Creek**. A **Pre-performance Lecture** with local favorite **Joe Craven** (Joe Craven Trio) takes place at **7 p.m.** in the **AGR Room** of the **Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center**, adjacent to the Mondavi Center on the UC Davis campus.

Says **Jeremy Ganter**, Mondavi Center associate executive director, “This is a first chance to see the Punch Brothers at the Mondavi Center. Chris Thile’s fine follow-up to Nickel Creek truly represents the future of bluegrass.”

Pricing is \$45/35/25 for regular tickets and \$22.50/17.50/12.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **American Heritage Series**, which continues with the **Guitar Blues** showcase on **March 4**.

Widely regarded as one of the most interesting and inventive musicians of his generation, composer/performer **Chris Thile** has changed the mandolin forever, elevating it from its origins as a relatively simple folk and bluegrass instrument to the sophistication and brilliance of the finest jazz improvisation and classical performance. Thile’s newest venture, **Punch Brothers**, already is playing to sold-out crowds around the world. Comprised of five young and fiercely talented musicians—**Chris Thile (mandolin)**, **Gabe Witcher (fiddle)**, **Chris Eldridge (guitar)**, **Noam Pikelny (banjo)**, **Paul Kowert (bass)**—the band has captured the attention of music lovers across genres. In February 2008, they released their Nonesuch Records debut “Punch,” featuring Thile’s ambitious four-movement chamber suite “The Blind Leaving the Blind,” which was premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2007. The album received critical acclaim around the world from authorities and sources on many genres. The group’s first album, “How to Grow a Woman from the Ground,” also was widely praised, receiving a GRAMMY nomination for best country instrumental.

For more than 15 years, Thile played in the wildly popular band **Nickel Creek**, with which he released three albums for a combined two million records sold, was awarded a GRAMMY in 2002, and traveled the world on sold-out concert tours. As a soloist, he has released five albums, conquering a dizzying range of instruments, songwriting challenges and musical styles.

Thile has also performed and recorded extensively as a duo with double bass virtuoso **Edgar Meyer** (with whom he released an album and toured the world in the fall of 2008) and with fellow eminent mandolinist **Mike Marshall**. In April 2007, Meyer and pianist **Emanuel Ax** performed a piece for double bass and piano that they commissioned from Thile. Additionally, Thile has collaborated with a pantheon of bluegrass innovators, including **Bela Fleck, Dolly Parton, the Dixie Chicks, Jerry Douglas** and **Sam Bush**.

Every major mandolin-related award has been presented to Thile over the course of his career, including the National Mandolin Championship at age 12 and the International Bluegrass Music Association's Mandolinist of the Year. Most recently, Thile won the 2007 BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for Musician of the Year. Read more about Punch Brothers and Chris Thile at PunchBrothers.com.

- **Punch Brothers, featuring Chris Thile**
- **Sat., Feb. 14, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$45/35/25 regular; \$22.50/17.50/12.50 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**
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