



Wisconsin Union
Experiences for a lifetime

Press Release

For immediate release

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Note to editors: high-resolution photos available at <http://www.uniontheater.wisc.edu/press2.html>

Original line-up of Béla Fleck and the Flecktones reunite in concert at Wisconsin Union Theater

The original line-up of [Béla Fleck and the Flecktones](#) reunite in concert at the Wisconsin Union Theater on Thursday, March 1, 2012, at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$38/\$34/\$25 for the general public and \$34, \$30 and \$25 for Union Members and UW-Madison faculty and staff. As always, tickets for UW-Madison students are only \$10 with valid ID. Call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787), fax your order at 608-265-5084, buy [online](#), or purchase in person at the Campus Arts Ticketing box office in Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. or Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

Genre-breaking banjoist/composer/bandleader [Béla Fleck](#) has reconvened [Béla Fleck & The Flecktones](#), the original line-up of his incredible combo. Joining Fleck are pianist/harmonica player Howard Levy, bassist Victor Wooten, and percussionist/drumitarist Roy “Futureman” Wooten. Their latest album, [Rocket Science](#), marks the first recording by the fab four Flecktones in almost two decades. Far from being a wistful trip back in time, the album sees the quartet creating some of the most forward thinking music of their long, storied career. All manner of genres come into play, from classical and jazz to bluegrass and African to electric blues and Eastern European folk dances. The result is an impossible-to-pigeonhole sound all their own, a meeting of musical minds that remains, as ever, utterly indescribable. “All of the different things I do come together to make a new ‘hybrid’ Béla,” Fleck says. “Everybody else in the group is doing the same things, collaborating with different people, and pursuing a wide variety of ideas, so when we come together and put all of our separate soups into one big stockpot it turns into a very diverse concoction.”

The Flecktones first played together in 1988, ostensibly for a single performance on PBS’ Lonesome Pine Special. From the start, there was a special kinship between the four musicians, a bond forged in a mutual passion for creativity and artistic advancement. After band member Howard Levy left to pursue other interests, the band played in different reincarnations, garnering five Grammy® Awards in a variety of categories. The original line-up reunited in 2009 for a tour of the US and Europe, an experience Levy

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describes as “extremely invigorating and very energizing.” Victor Wooten adds, “It felt just like it did when we first started playing together, just with a lot less hair.” It is likely that their 2012 tour won’t be repeated, certainly not for a long time.

This performance is sponsored by the Wisconsin Union Directorate Performing Arts Committee and is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Other sponsors include True Endeavors, the Onion, Capital City Hues, Madison Times, Wisconsin Public Radio, WORT 89.9 FM, and WSUM 91.7FM.



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