A NIGHT WITH THILE AND MEYER:
PLAYFUL STRING MELODIES

The Wisconsin Union is proud to present Chris Thile and Edgar Meyer on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. in Shannon Hall. Purchase tickets here or call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787). Tickets can also be purchased at either the box office in Vilas Hall (entrance on East Campus Mall, 821 University Avenue) or the box office in the Wisconsin Union Theater. Ticket prices are as follows. General Public: $42, $38, and $25; Wisconsin Union Member and Non UW-Madison Students: $38-$34; UW-Madison Faculty & Staff: $40-$36; UW-Madison Student (with ID): $10 (limited number of tickets available).

Mandolin player Thile and bassist Meyer, both members of the MacArthur Fellows Program, are no strangers to collaboration. Thile worked with the acoustic folk-bluegrass hybrid quintet Punch Brothers and with the Californian progressive acoustic trio Nickel Creek. Meyer’s accomplished list of collaborators includes artists like Joshua Bell, Yo-Yo Ma, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Sam Bush, James Taylor, Alison Krauss, Mary Chapin Carpenter, among others. Thile and Meyer have joined forces with each other on
a number of projects over the last decade, including the Grammy-winning Goat Rodeo Sessions with Yo-Yo Ma in 2011 and a recording of original compositions released in 2008 under Nonesuch Records.

“This collaboration between Chris Thile, the former vocalist and mandolin player of the pop-bluegrass band Nickel Creek (currently of the Punch Brothers) and the bassist Edgar Meyer is odd and compelling: together, the two musicians make a rich, occasionally frantic sound, as indebted to traditional bluegrass as it is to classical and avant-garde music,” according to a 2008 review by The New York Times.

Thile and Meyer’s work is playful and calming, interesting and delightful, urging listeners to sway along with their melodies. It is easy to get lost in their unique sound.

Meyer said the following to Nonesuch Journal in August 2014:

“Chris is comfortable with all kinds of improvising, with lots of different musical feelings and rhythmic feelings. With him I can do anything I want. I can just be a bass player or I can play the melody. There are not many people with whom I have so much common ground. We can get to the bottom of things very quickly.” Added Thile, “We have grown a lot as a collaborative entity between our first recording and now … as collaborators, we’ve found a warmer voice to share.”

This concert is presented by the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Performing Arts Committee and 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.