Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn to Play First Show of Wisconsin Union Theater’s 2015-2016 Season

The Wisconsin Union Theater, in collaboration with True Endeavors and Frank Productions, is excited to present banjo players Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn in the first show of the Theater’s 2015-2016 season. Fleck and Washburn will perform in Shannon Hall Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office in the Wisconsin Union Theater, by calling 608-265-ARTS and on our website here. Tickets are $50 and $37.50 for the
general public, $30 for University of Wisconsin-Madison students (with ID) and $35 for Wisconsin Union Members and Non UW-Madison Students.

Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn were successful long before they teamed up, in music and in life. Fleck is one of the premiere banjo players in the world. He has reinvented the image and sound of the banjo with his solo and collaborative projects, incorporating bluegrass, jazz, pop, rock and world styles to his music. Fleck wrote his first stand-alone banjo concerto, titled “The Impostor” in 2011. He has won 15 Grammy Awards and has been nominated for 30, in more musical categories than anyone in Grammy history.

Washburn has made a name for herself with her uniquely developed clawhammer style of play and her prominence in China. She is one of the first artists to tour China individually and consistently, in an effort to facilitate the exchange of music between China and the United States. Recently, Washburn was named the first US-China Fellow at Vanderbilt University. She has also given TED Talks about building US-China relations through music.

Fleck and Washburn have been working together since 2005, when they joined the Sparrow Quartet. Since then, the pair has gotten married and had a son. They released their first collaborative album last October.

“Alive and in constant motion, the banjo discourse provides a wondrously open backdrop for Washburn's vocals,” said Tom Moon of NPR Music in regard to the pair’s newest album.

This tour is the first time they have taken their duo act on the road. Their Grammy-worthy music, when brought together, creates seamlessly beautiful folk-style songs.

This performance is presented by the Wisconsin Union Theater’s Performing Arts Committee in collaboration with True Endeavors and Frank Productions. Isthmus and WORT are media sponsors.