Press Release
For immediate release
Contact: Esty Dinur, Director of Marketing and Communications, 608-262-3907, edinur@wisc.edu
Note to Editors: high-resolution photos available here

Classics & Christmas: Tommy Emmanuel at the Wisconsin Union Theater

The flawless, complex finger style and energetic performance of Tommy Emmanuel is coming to the Wisconsin Union Theater for an event combining his classics and favorite Christmas tunes. Emmanuel will be performing on Friday, December 4, 2015 at 8 p.m. in Shannon Hall. Tickets are available at the box office in the Wisconsin Union Theater, by calling 608-265-ARTS and online here. Tickets are $39.50 for the general public, $34.50 for Wisconsin Union Members and Non UW-Madison Students, and $25 for UW-Madison Students (with ID).

Tommy Emmanuel started his playing career at the young age of six when he went on the road with his family’s band. That was the start of his five-decade career, which has garnered hundreds of thousands of fans worldwide. He was initially recognized in his teens when he won a strings talent competition. Later, he played in bands like Goldrush, with his brother Phil Emmanuel, The Southern
Star Band, the backing group for vocalist Doug Parkinson, and 1970s rock group Dragon. Emmanuel then broke off to pursue his solo career.

His distinct style, combining jazz, bluegrass and rock, has won him critical acclaim as an artist, recognized for his complex fingerstyle technique.

Emmanuel has seen great success, having been nominated for two Grammys and having won "Instrumental of the Year" at the 35th Tamworth Country Music Festival. He has played with numerous artists, including Sir George Martin, Air Supply, Eric Clapton, Sir George Martin, Les Paul, and Chet Atkins. Emmanuel has acknowledged Chet Atkins as his inspiration when he was a young boy. Thirty-five years later, the two recorded a duet and later Emmanuel earned the Certified Guitar Player award, an honor Chet personally bestowed on only four guitarists.

Emmanuel will be bringing his Classics & Christmas Tour for one night only. It is a spin-off of his 2011 release, All I Want for Christmas. The album features new arrangements for nine Yuletide classics including "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "The Christmas Song," and "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer." The show will feature two sets of music. The first set will be solo and consist of Emmanuel playing fan favorite material along with songs from his brand new album, It's Never Too Late. In the second set, Emmanuel will be performing Christmas classics with his friends Pat Bergeson, John Knowles CGP, and Annie Sellick.

This performance is sponsored by the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Performing Arts Committee and True Endeavors, with support from Isthmus, Wisconsin Public Radio and WORT 89.9 FM.