



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAP UCLA presents  
Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn**

*December 6 at Royce Hall*



"As musicians and as songwriters, Fleck and Washburn are predisposed to embrace the entire world — its sounds and its occupants alike. *Echo in the Valley* ties the many threads of their interests into a work that dazzles without sacrificing a shred of approachability." - *NPR Music*

"*Echo in the Valley* is to bluegrass as Charlie Parker was to New Orleans in the '20s: respectful of its roots, untethered in its ambitions and triumphant in bringing it all together." - *Downbeat*

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents husband and wife duo, Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. at Royce Hall. Tickets for \$26–\$66 are available now at [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu), via Ticketmaster, by phone 310-825-2101, and at the UCLA Central Ticket Office.

Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn will perform songs from their new album, *Echo in the Valley* (Rounder). Serving as a follow-up to their acclaimed self-titled debut earning the 2016 Grammy for Best Folk Album. This performance is a reflection of the times, including the single "Come All You Coal Miners," written by coal miner advocate Sarah Ogan Gunning.

"Come All You Coal Miners," a vintage agitprop lament about coal mining as wage slavery, opens this track in unexpected form, a long way from traditionalism, with Abigail Washburn's near a cappella vocal over eerie electronic tones that may involve banjos in reverse," writes *The New York Times*.

With seven banjos between them, Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn joined forces in 2013 for a very banjo-centric touring project. With the birth of their son Juno, they are now a touring family band.

15-time Grammy winner Béla Fleck has the virtuosic, jazz-to-classical ingenuity of an iconic instrumentalist and composer with bluegrass roots, and the distinction of being nominated in more categories than any other instrumentalist in Grammy history. He has brought the banjo to his standard-setting ensemble Béla Fleck & the Flecktones and a staggeringly broad array of musical experiments, from writing two banjo concerts (*The Impostor* and *Juno Concerto*), to exploring the banjo's African roots with *Throw Down Your Heart* to duos with Chick Corea and Chris Thile.

Abigail Washburn has the earthy sophistication of a postmodern, old-time singer-songwriter who has drawn critical acclaim for her solo albums. She has also done fascinating work in folk musical diplomacy in China, presented an original theatrical production *Post-American Girl*, performs in a duo with guzheng master, Wu Fei and is a member of Uncle Earl and The Wu-Force.

CAP UCLA's American Roots series continues in 2019 with *The Soul Rebels* (Feb 16, The Theatre at Ace Hotel) and *An Evening with Lettuce & John Scofield* (March 20, The Theatre at Ace Hotel).

**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

CAP UCLA presents

[Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn](#)

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018 at 8 p.m.

Royce Hall, UCLA

10745 Dickson Court, Los Angeles, CA 90095

**Program:** Husband and wife duo Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn are banjo royalty. Fleck, who is often cited as the premiere banjo player in the world today, redefined bluegrass with his award-winning band the Flecktones, whose distinctive style known as "blu-bop" is an eclectic mix of jazz and bluegrass. Known for her distinctive claw-hammer style of playing, Washburn pairs venerable folk elements with far-flung sounds which *The New York Times* once described as "a blend of Appalachia and folk-pop, with tinges of Asia and Bruce Springsteen." Together, with their combined total of 10 strings, they can span the range of a piano, a blues band or an entire symphony orchestra. Combined with their extraordinary depth of knowledge about world music,

the possibilities are endless. You'll never think of the banjo the same way again after you hear it played by these two disarming and delightful musical geniuses.

**Tickets:**

Single tickets: \$29–\$69

Online: [cap.ucla.edu](http://cap.ucla.edu)

UCLA Central Ticket Office: 310-825-2101, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Royce Hall box office: open 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

**Artist website:** [Béla Fleck](#) & [Abigail Washburn](#)

**ABOUT BELA FLECK**

There are some who say he's the world's premier banjo player. Others claim that Béla has virtually reinvented the image and the sound of the banjo through a remarkable performing and recording career that has taken him all over the musical map and on a range of solo projects and collaborations. If you are familiar with Béla, you know that he just loves to play the banjo, and put it into unique settings.

**ABOUT ABIGAIL WASHBURN**

One fateful day 11 years ago, Washburn was miraculously offered a record deal in the halls of a bluegrass convention in Kentucky which changed her trajectory from becoming a lawyer in China to a traveling folk musician. Since then, Abigail has been recording and touring a continuous stream of music. Her music ranges from the "all-g'earl" string band sound of Uncle Earl to her bi-lingual solo release *Song of the Traveling Daughter* (2005), to the mind-bending "chamber roots" sound of the Sparrow Quartet, to the rhythms, sounds and stories of *Afterquake*, her fundraiser CD for the Sichuan earthquake victims. Her most recent release, *Echo in the Valley* (2017), was recorded with her husband, 15-time Grammy award winning banjo virtuoso, Béla Fleck. *Echo in the Valley* is the follow up to Béla and Abigail's acclaimed, self-titled debut that earned the 2016 Grammy for Best Folk Album.

**ABOUT CAP UCLA**

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word, and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross-platforms — by leading artists from around the globe. Part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, CAP UCLA curates and facilitates direct exposure to artists who are creating extraordinary works of art and fosters a vibrant learning community both on and off the UCLA campus. The organization invests in the creative process by providing artists with financial backing and time to experiment and expand their practices through strategic partnerships and collaborations. As an influential voice within the local, national and global art communities, CAP UCLA connects this generation to the next in order to preserve a living archive of our culture. CAP UCLA is also a safe harbor where cultural expression and artistic exploration can thrive, giving audiences the opportunity to experience real life through characters and stories on stage, and giving artists an avenue to challenge assumptions and advance new ways of seeing and understanding the world we live in now.

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**IMAGES:** Available by request or register for download at [cap.ucla.edu/pressimages](http://cap.ucla.edu/pressimages). Photo by Stephen J. Cohen.