



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 4, 2011

## **PUNCH BROTHERS FEATURING CHRIS THILE RETURN TO THE LINCOLN THEATRE**

Composed of five young and fiercely talented musicians—Chris Thile (mandolin), Gabe Witcher (fiddle), Chris Eldridge (guitar), Noam Pikelny (banjo), and Paul Kowert (bass)—the band has captured the attention of music lovers across genres. Their shows include an unpredictable mix of original songs written by the band, the 4-movement chamber suite “The Blind Leaving the Blind” (composed by Thile), traditional bluegrass and folk tunes, arrangements of Bach and Mozart, and covers of Radiohead, The Beatles, The Band, The White Stripes, The Strokes, and multiple other sources. Punch Brothers are now touring in support of their 2010 release, *Antifogmatic*.

CAPA presents **Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile** at the **Lincoln Theatre** (769 E. Long St.) on Monday, January 24, at 8pm. Tickets are \$26 at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. Students between the ages of 13-19 may purchase \$5 High Five tickets while available. This performance is made possible through the generous support of Univar.

Collecting five singular abilities and viewpoints into one musical force, Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile have established their place among the most dynamic and talented presences across the full range of contemporary music-making. As performing and recording artists, composers and interpreters, technicians and stylists, they continue to push the boundaries of possibility while maintaining an unerring devotion to the basic audience experience.

Punch Brothers first came together, though nameless at the time, for the making of the 2006 album *How to Grow a Woman from the Ground*, which earned them a Grammy nomination for the song “The Eleventh Reel” and contains an eclectic mix of covers and original songs. Following that experience, the band began touring and eventually adopted the name Punch Brothers (from the Mark Twain story “Punch, Brothers, Punch!”) before releasing their second album, *Punch*, in 2008. *Punch* comprises music written collectively by Punch Brothers alongside

Thile's "The Blind Leaving the Blind," a 40-minute quintet that was premiered at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall and performed across the US and UK.

At home in a dizzying array of settings even outside of their expansive core activities, Punch Brothers have been the subject of a feature-length documentary called "How to Grow a Band," have appeared on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," and were among three finalists in ESPN's cut-throat, fan-voted battle of the bands in interpretations of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." The band members' diverse backgrounds and extraordinary talents make the group impossible to describe and thrilling to experience.

Their 2010 release, *Antifogmatic*, debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* Heatseekers Chart. Named after a 19th century alcoholic drink meant as a cure for the effects of fog and other inclement weather, *Antifogmatic's* ten songs were written collaboratively by the band. Of choosing the title, Thile notes, "Antifogmatic is an old term for a bracing beverage, generally rum or whiskey, that a person would have before going out to work in rough weather to stave off any ill effects. This batch of tunes could be used in much the same way, and includes some characters who would probably benefit mightily, if temporarily, from a good antifogmatic."

### **About Chris Thile (mandolin)**

Chris Thile has changed the mandolin forever, elevating it from its origins as a relatively simple folk and bluegrass instrument to the sophistication and brilliance of the finest jazz improvisation and classical performance. In the 2009-10 season, he premiered his *Mandolin Concerto* with six orchestras in the US. For more than 15 years, Thile played in the wildly popular band Nickel Creek with whom he released three albums and sold two million records, was awarded a Grammy in 2002, and traveled the world on sold-out concert tours. As a soloist, he has released four albums, as well as performed and recorded extensively as a duo with double bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer and fellow eminent mandolinist Mike Marshall. He has written a duo for Meyer and pianist Emanuel Ax; recorded with Yo-Yo Ma, Renee Fleming, and Joshua Bell; and collaborated with a pantheon of bluegrass innovators including Bela Fleck, Dolly Parton, the Dixie Chicks, Jerry Douglas, and Sam Bush.

### **About Chris Eldridge (guitar)**

Although initially drawn to the electric guitar, by his mid-teens, Chris Eldridge had developed a deep love for acoustic music, thanks in part to his father, a banjo player and founding member

of the seminal bluegrass group The Seldom Scene. Eldridge later gained in-depth exposure to a variety of different musical styles while studying at Oberlin Conservatory where he earned a degree in music performance in 2004. During his time at Oberlin, Eldridge studied with legendary guitarist Tony Rice. Before joining Punch Brothers, he was a founding member of the critically acclaimed bluegrass band The Infamous Stringdusters.

### **About Paul Kowert (bass)**

Paul Kowert is from Madison, WI, and graduated from The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. As a classical musician, Kowert has performed with various orchestras as a soloist and as a section member, including the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Switzerland in 2008. He was one of the performers at Edgar Meyer's Carnegie Hall workshop in 2006, and since then, has appeared in concert with Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, Tristan and Tashina Clarridge, Alex and Tatiana Hargreaves, Futureman's Black Mozart Ensemble, Jordan Tice, Brittany Haas, and Jeremy Kittel. Kowert can be heard as a member of the "Big Trio" with mandolinist Mike Marshall and violinist Alex Hargreaves, a group that released its first album in spring 2009.

### **About Noam Pikelny (banjo)**

Noam Pikelny hails from Chicago, IL, where he picked up the banjo at age eight. He studied old-time and bluegrass banjo at the Old Town School of Folk Music. Throughout high school, he played all over Illinois and Indiana with several traditional bluegrass bands that occasionally required him to wear a uniform. Pikelny studied music theory at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. In 2002, he became the principal banjoist with the award-winning Colorado ensemble Leftover Salmon. His debut solo record, *In the Maze*, was released on Compass Records, and though it did not have much success on the *Billboard* charts, it made a splash in the world of post-modern, progressive, three-finger style, five-string banjo. In 2006, Pikelny relocated to Nashville to play with New Grass Revival bassist and vocalist John Cowan. He started performing and recording with mandolinist, fellow Cubs fan, spiritual advisor, and life coach Chris Thile in the fall of 2005. Noam relocated to Brooklyn, NY, in the spring of 2008.

### **About Gabe Witcher (fiddle)**

Gabe Witcher began his musical training at age five, learning classical violin and bluegrass fiddle simultaneously. By age six, he was performing professionally with his father in the bluegrass band The Witcher Brothers. Over the next decade, he gained renown as both a member of that group and as a multiple winner on the California competition circuit. In 1994,

Witcher was recruited by veteran musician Herb Pedersen to fill the shoes of three-time national fiddle champion Byron Berline in the group The Laurel Canyon Ramblers. By age 17, Witcher was recording for heavyweights such as Randy Newman, Bernie Taupin, and producer Don Was. He has since contributed to more than 300 records and countless movie and television scores, including 2006 Oscar-winner *Brokeback Mountain*. Over the last five years, he has solidified his place at the forefront of the progressive acoustic music scene by playing with 12-time Grammy winner Jerry Douglas.

[www.punchbrothers.com](http://www.punchbrothers.com)

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

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**Monday, January 24, 8pm**

**Lincoln Theatre (769 E. Long St.)**

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Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent, historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Valentine Theatre (Toledo, OH), and Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), CAPA is a not-for-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment in operation for more than 40 years. For more information, visit [www.capa.com](http://www.capa.com).

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