



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2010

**CAPA PRESENTS THE BLUEGRASS ARTISTRY OF
PUNCH BROTHERS
FEATURING CHRIS THILE**

“Why didn't someone think about mixing bluegrass, jazz and classical music together sooner? Chris Thile...is doing it with his new outfit, Punch Brothers, and the result is totally mind-blowing.”- *The San Francisco Chronicle*

Formed in 2006, Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile are already playing to sold-out crowds around the world. 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 several genres.

CAPA presents **Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile** at the **Lincoln Theatre** (769 E. Long St.) on **Saturday, February 13**, at **8 pm**. **Tickets** are \$25 at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. The Lincoln Theatre Ticket Office will open two hours prior to the performance. Students between the ages of 13-19 may purchase \$5 High Five tickets while available.

The group's first album, *How to Grow a Woman from the Ground*, received a Grammy® Award nomination, and 2007's *Punch* featured Thile's ambitious four-movement chamber suite, “The Blind Leaving the Blind, which received tremendous critical acclaim. The band debuted the piece in March 2007 at a sold-out performance at Carnegie's Zankel Hall as part of composer John Adams' In Your Ear Festival.

The resumes of the members of Punch Brothers—whose name is taken from the Mark Twain short story, “Punch, Brothers, Punch!”—are formidable.

About Chris Thile

Widely regarded as one of the most interesting and inventive musicians of his generation, 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. For more than 15 years, Thile played in the wildly popular band Nickel Creek, with whom he released three albums for a combined two million records sold, was awarded a 2002 Grammy® and traveled the world on sold-out concert tours. As a soloist, he has released four albums, conquering a dizzying range of instruments, songwriting challenges, and musical styles.

Thile has also performed and recorded extensively as a duo with double bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer and with fellow eminent mandolinist Mike Marshall. In April 2007, Meyer and pianist Emanuel Ax commissioned Thile to write a piece for double bass and piano which they performed on a tour including the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville. Additionally, Thile has collaborated with a pantheon of bluegrass innovators including Bela Fleck, Dolly Parton, the Dixie Chicks, Jerry Douglas, and Sam Bush.

About Gabe Witcher

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.

Witcher 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.

About Chris Eldridge

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 Noam Pikelny

Noam Pikelny hails from Chicago, where he spent his youth in joint custody between Wrigley Field and the Old Town School of Folk Music. During high school, he played all over Illinois and Indiana with several traditional bluegrass bands who occasionally required him to wear a uniform. He studied music at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, before loading up the truck and moving to Boulder, Colorado. 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 charts, it made a splash in the world of postmodern progressive three-finger style five-string banjo. In 2006, he relocated to Nashville to play with New Grass Revival bassist and vocalist John Cowan. He started performing and recording with Chris Thile in 2005, and relocated to Brooklyn, NY, in 2008.

About Paul Kowert

Paul Kowert is from Madison, Wisconsin, and recently 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, most recently playing in the Verbier Festival Orchestra in Switzerland in the summer of 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.

CALENDAR LISTING

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Saturday, February 13, 8 pm

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 now celebrating 40 years of service. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

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