

MOSS
ARTS
CENTER

24/
25



béla fleck and
abigail washburn

Friday, October 11, 2024, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

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OR OPERA ROANOKE

'24 -'25 Season, "A Family Affair"
Tickets starting at \$23!
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béla fleck and abigail washburn

Program to be announced from stage

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Ed Spencer
and Ms. Elizabeth Hahn and Mr. Douglas Chancey.
Additional funding is provided by the Dave and Judie Reemsnyder
Center for the Arts Excellence Fund.



biography

béla fleck and abigail washburn

Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn, “the king and queen of the banjo” (*Paste Magazine*), have a musical partnership like no other. Fleck is an 18-time Grammy Award winner who has taken the instrument across multiple genres, and Washburn a singer-songwriter and clawhammer banjo player who reradicalized the instrument by combining it with Far East culture and sounds. The two met at a square dance, began collaborating musically, and eventually fell in love. Over the years, they played together most visibly in the Sparrow Quartet alongside Ben Sollee and Casey Driessen and informally at a pickin’ party here, a benefit there, or occasionally popping up in each other’s solo shows. Fans of tradition-tweaking acoustic fare eagerly anticipated that Fleck and Washburn would begin making music together as a duo.

Fleck has the virtuosic, jazz-to-classical ingenuity of an iconic instrumentalist and composer with bluegrass roots. His collaborations range from his celebrated return to bluegrass, *My Bluegrass Heart*; to his groundbreaking, standard-setting ensemble, Béla Fleck and the Flecktones; to a staggeringly broad array of musical experiments. From writing three concertos for a full symphony orchestra, to exploring the

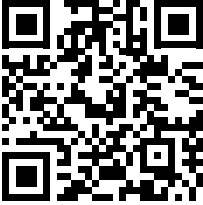
banjo's African roots, to jazz duos with Chick Corea, many tout that Fleck is the world's premier banjo player. As Jon Pareles wrote for the *New York Times*, "That's a lot of territory for five strings."

Washburn has the earthy sophistication of a postmodern, old-time singer-songwriter who has drawn critical acclaim for her solo albums. She has done fascinating work in folk musical diplomacy in China, presented an original theatrical production, and has contributed to singular side groups Uncle Earl and the Wu-Force. In addition to being named a TED Fellow in 2012, Washburn was the first U.S.-China Fellow at Vanderbilt University and Carolina Performing Arts/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's DisTil Fellow for 2018-2020.

On stage, Fleck and Washburn will perform pieces from their Grammy-winning self-titled debut, as well as their new record, *Echo in the Valley* (2017). With one eye on using the banjo to showcase America's rich heritage and the other pulling the noble instrument from its most familiar arena into new and unique realms, Fleck and Washburn meet in the mean, head-on, to present music that feels wildly innovative and familiar at the same time. Whether at home, on stage, or on record, their deep bond combined with the way their distinct musical personalities and banjo styles interact make theirs a picking partnership unlike any other on the planet.

Fleck first performed at the Moss Arts Center with Zakir Hussain and Edgar Meyer in 2018. This is Washburn's first performance at the center.

tell us what you think!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to *An Evening with Ta-Nehisi Coates* on Friday, November 1, 2024.

bit.ly/fleck-washburn-feedback

Please note, survey responses are anonymous. If you would like a response to your feedback, please email mossartscenter@vt.edu.

engagement events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

UP CLOSE WITH BÉLA FLECK AND ABIGAIL WASHBURN

Fleck and Washburn answered audience questions and shared what they were playing and thinking at an up-close session before their Moss performance.





PK-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

Each year, wildly enthusiastic students — from PK through 12th grade — fill our theatre for free matinee performances by artists from all over the world. They explore our visual arts galleries during school tours and create and learn during hands-on workshops with artists. For many students, visiting the Moss Arts Center is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or gallery. Why do kids need access to the arts? Engaging in artistic activities offers a wide range of skills that they will use throughout their lives.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-k12.

MOSS ARTS CENTER

artscenter.vt.edu



Your gift to the Moss Arts Center helps to support access to the arts, student engagement, and cultural diversity.

Through gifts like yours, we have been able to expand opportunities for PK-12 students in our region, deepen relationships with academic partners, continue to offer \$10 tickets to performances for Virginia Tech students, and provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

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MOSS ARTS CENTER

FALL 2024
EXHIBITION



Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections

Curated by David Ayala-Alfonso

Through Sat., Dec. 14, 2024

All galleries

Explore a traveling exhibition that reflects on the birth of modern collections, the art institutions that sustain them, and their contingent origin stories to reveal a universe of erasures, violence, and fortuity. Considering how institutional collections organize our lives, *Never Spoken Again* brings together artists whose works open up a critique of material culture, iconography, and political ecologies.

Free Related Event

Beyond the Frame

Gallery Tours

Thurs., Nov. 14 and Dec. 12, 12 PM

Moss Arts Center Grand Lobby


Michael Rakowitz; *The invisible enemy should not exist – Seated Nude Male Figure, Wearing Belt Around Waist (IM77823) (Recovered, Missing, Stolen Series)*, 2018; Middle Eastern packaging and newspapers, glue, and cardboard; 37.75 x 28.75 x 28.75 inches; courtesy of the artist and Barbara Wien Gallery

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

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Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.





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This child's musical opportunity was provided by a grant from the MCEF and an amazing MCPS music teacher!

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*voices from the
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NOVEMBER 6

7:00 PM

FEATURING

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JARRETT WILDCATT - PHIL JAMISON - GREEN GRASS CLOGGERS -
DR DENA JENNINGS - JACK HINSHELWOOD -
JACOB WRIGHT - NEW BALLARD'S BRANCH BOGTROTTERS -
JUNIOR APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS - MIST ON THE MOUNTAIN
INTRODUCTION BY THE CROOKED ROAD DIRECTOR TYLER HUGHES



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Visit the 55th annual YMCA Artisan Fair

Nov 15– Nov 16, 2024
at The Y Center
1000 N. Main St. Blacksburg

Friday, November 15 from 9:00am–7:00pm
Saturday, November 16 from 9:00am–5:00pm



Food for neighbors in need. Safe spaces for kids to learn and grow. Outreach to seniors who are feeling isolated. These are just a few of the many reasons to give to the YMCA at Virginia Tech for our End of Year Appeal!

Find your reason to give
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www.vtymca.org/support-the-y/

Did You Know

Emily Stuart & the Craft Fair

- In 1970 Emily Stuart became the Director of YMCA at VT and began the International Programs and the annual Crafts Fair.
- Stuart brought the 1st craft fair to Blacksburg in 1969 to raise funds for the YMCA at Virginia Tech.
- In 1994 Stuart commented "It's like a community party, and when everyone helps to put it on it becomes a big occasion."
- 2024 marks our 55th annual Craft Fair



www.vtymca.org