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**CENTER**  
FOR THE  
**ARTS**  
AT VIRGINIA TECH

CHRIS THILE

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 7:30 PM

*Street and Davis Performance Hall  
Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre*



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## Montgomery Museum of ART & HISTORY



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4 East Main Street, Christiansburg.

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DUE TO A GRANT FROM

50 Virginia  
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### KEEPERS OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC TRADITIONS

AT THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT VIRGINIA TECH

**11.20.2025**

#### PERFORMANCES BY: APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW

As well as our region's award winning artists the **Junior Sisk Band** and **Jack Hinshelwood**.



**ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW**  
**AT [ARTSCENTER.VT.EDU](http://ARTSCENTER.VT.EDU)**

# CHRIS THILE

This performance will last approximately  
90 to 105 minutes with no intermission.

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

# BIOGRAPHY

## Chris Thile

Acclaimed Grammy Award-winning mandolinist, singer, songwriter, composer, and MacArthur Fellow recipient of the prestigious “Genius Grant,” Chris Thile is a multifaceted musical talent, described by *The Guardian* as “that rare being: an all-round musician,” and hailed by NPR as a “genre-defying musical genius.” Thile is a founding member of the highly influential string bands Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek, and has collaborated with countless luminaries from Yo-Yo Ma to Fiona Apple to Brad Mehldau. For four years, Thile hosted public radio favorite *Live from Here with Chris Thile* (formerly known as *A Prairie Home Companion*). With his broad outlook, Thile creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike, giving the listener “one joyous arc, with the linear melody and vertical harmony blurring into a single web of gossamer beauty” (*New York Times*).

Over the last couple of years, Thile toured with Nickel Creek in support of the critically acclaimed 2023 release *Celebrants*. Most recently, he has been captivating audiences with a playfully ambitious biographical composition entitled *ATTENTION! (a narrative song cycle for extroverted mandolinist and orchestra)*, and has been focused on the production of a new musical variety show, *The Energy Curfew Music Hour*. Created with Claire Coffee and featuring Punch Brothers, season one is available on Audible and all podcasting platforms, with season two to be released in late fall 2025.

The wide-ranging program of Thile’s 2025-2026 solo performances will feature selections from his acclaimed solo recordings of Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas — including the upcoming second volume out this autumn — alongside his signature post-genre blend of compositional rigor, folksy stagecraft, and improvisational brilliance.

*This is Thile’s first performance at the Center for the Arts.*

# 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 La Santa Cecilia on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

[bit.ly/chris-thile-feedback](https://bit.ly/chris-thile-feedback)

*Please note, survey responses are anonymous. If you would like a response to your feedback, please email [artscenter@vt.edu](mailto:artscenter@vt.edu).*

## GO DEEPER

In a 2021 interview Thile shared, "For a long time there was a real desire to be 'the best,' whatever that means. And falling away from the idea that there was a hard-and-fast 'right way' just blew the doors off my concept of music-making."

How might this shift in perspective — moving away from the pressure of being "the best" to focusing on personal artistic expression — transform the relationship between a musician and their audience?

# ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

The Center for the Arts seeks to build diverse perspectives, foster creativity, and promote collaboration. We're dedicated to giving people of all ages access to creative experiences that can transform the way they see the world and the people in it.

While at Virginia Tech, Chris Thile treated community members and students to an engaging Q&A on music, storytelling, and self-exploration before tonight's performance.

*Special thanks to the School of Performing Arts and Jason Crafton*



**CENTER**  
FOR THE  
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AT VIRGINIA TECH

## Creating Art. Creating Impact.

Thanks to donor support, our visual artist residency program brings artists to campus for immersive engagements with Virginia Tech students. Artists create in real time, inviting students into the journey. It's these moments of connection that leave a lasting mark.

"Most of the time when students encounter an art exhibition, everything looks perfect and polished and installed," said Brian Holcombe, director of visual arts. "The artists being here — creating the works, interacting with the students, creating pieces that are unique to the center — shows them how this comes together."

Your gift helps make these moments possible. Whether through an endowed fund or a contribution of any size, your support creates lasting impact.

Give today at [artscenter.vt.edu/support](https://artscenter.vt.edu/support) or contact Paul Brammer at [pbrammer@vt.edu](mailto:pbrammer@vt.edu).



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PERFORMANCES | EXHIBITIONS | EXPERIENCES



## PK-12 PROGRAMS

Each year, wildly enthusiastic students — from PK through 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Center for the Arts is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or gallery. Why do young people 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/artscenteratvt-pk12](https://bit.ly/artscenteratvt-pk12).

**CENTER**  
FOR THE  
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AT VIRGINIA TECH

**FALL 2025**  
EXHIBITIONS



**Through Sat., Nov. 22, 2025**

**Clare Grill and Margaux Ogden**

***Things I Had No Words For***

*Ruth C. Horton Gallery*

**Dana Frankfort and Josephine Halvorson**

***Seeing and Reading***

*Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and*

*Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery*

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**Through July 2026**

**Mural: Clare Grill and Margaux Ogden**

*Turner Street exterior wall*

**Through July 2028**

**Mural: Brian Dettmer**

***Memories of the Mountains***

*Grand Lobby*

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**Free Related Event**

***Beyond the Frame Gallery Tour***

**Thurs., Nov. 13, 12 PM**

*Grand Lobby*

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Center for the Arts

Email [blacksburgballet@gmail.com](mailto:blacksburgballet@gmail.com)  
for information on our free  
daytime field trip opportunities for  
school children, daycares, and  
senior groups!

# THE NUTCRACKER

December 11-12, 2025  
tickets on sale  
beginning  
September 1st

@blacksburgballet  
540-961-6666

Blacksburg  
BALLET

BLACKSBURG  
MASTER  
CHORALE

## Let the Pipes Resound!

Music for voice + organ. Featuring the Blacksburg Children's Chorale



[blacksburgmasterchorale.org](http://blacksburgmasterchorale.org)

10.17.25  
Raleigh Court Presbyterian  
in Roanoke, 7 PM

10.18.25  
Church on Main  
in Blacksburg, 7:30 PM



With energy, charm, and an ungodly amount jaw-dropping technicality, AJ Lee & Blue Summit are a band quickly on the rise in the national roots music scene. Based in Santa Cruz, California, the group is proud to represent neo-traditionalist bluegrass and folk music from the state and the mighty communities surrounding them. Their music shines with this "think global, act local" sort of approach, and their love for their community and each other resonates in every performance.

Nov 12, 2025 | 8:00PM

Tickets available at

[TheLyric.com/live](http://TheLyric.com/live)

(540) 951-4771

135 College Ave, Blacksburg

## AJ Lee & Blue Summit

Live at The Lyric

## NEW RIVER ART & FIBER

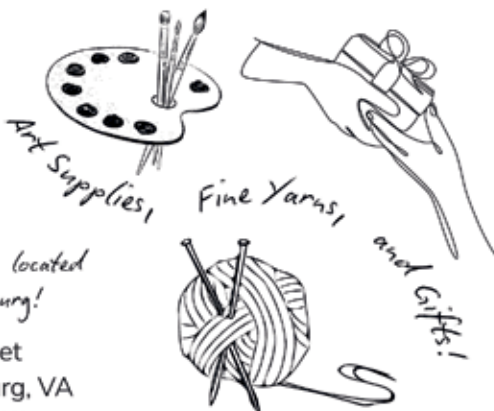
Plan a visit to see our new gallery, located in the heart of downtown Blacksburg!



101 South Main Street

Downtown Blacksburg, VA

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





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**LASERFORCE**

**IT'S game time AT THE SUPERBOWL!**

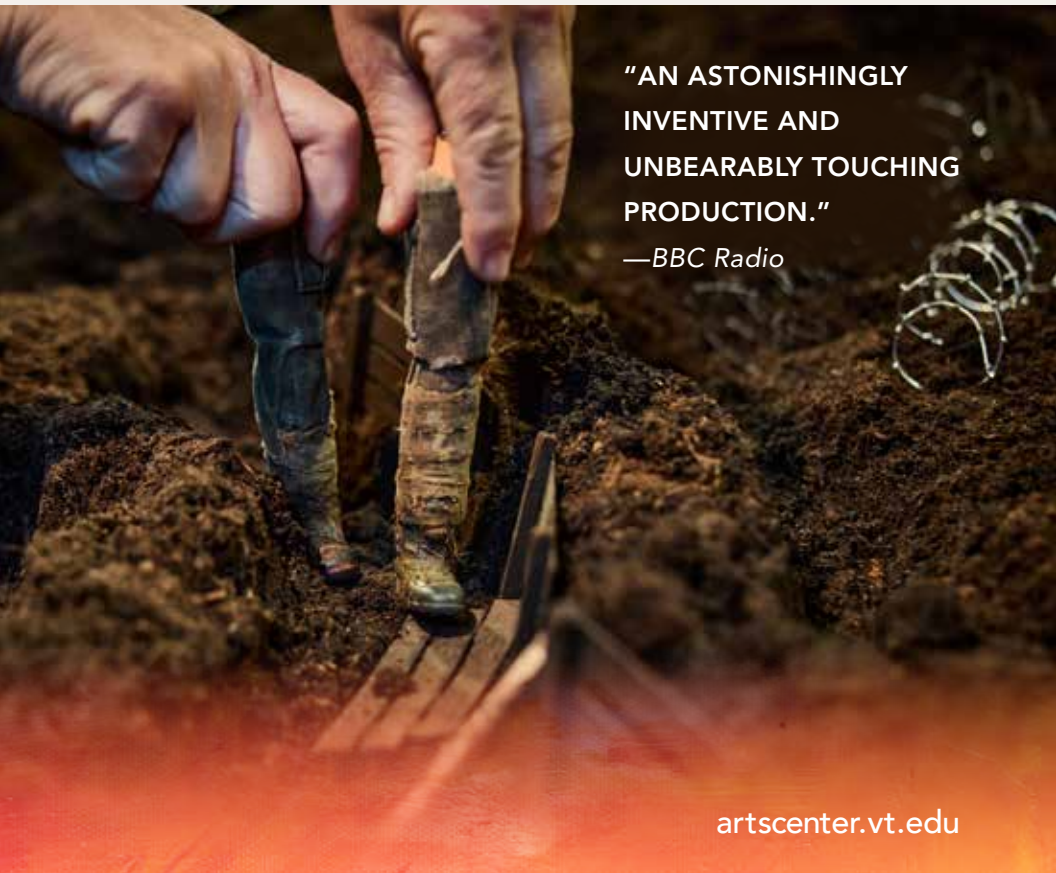
**AXE THROWING LASER TAG BOWLING ARCADE GREAT FOOD**

**[www.nrvsuperbowl.net](http://www.nrvsuperbowl.net)**

## HOTEL MODERN AND ARTHUR SAUER *The Great War*

Thurs., Nov. 6, and Fri., Nov. 7, 7:30 PM

Experience a poetic and deeply moving fusion of puppetry, projection, and storytelling as a miniature battlefield bursts into life with live sound effects and authentic soldier letters that revive the voices of World War I's trench warfare.



**"AN ASTONISHINGLY  
INVENTIVE AND  
UNBEARABLY TOUCHING  
PRODUCTION."**

—*BBC Radio*

[artscenter.vt.edu](https://artscenter.vt.edu)

## The YMCA at Virginia Tech

Just like Chris Thile making old music new again, the Y's sustainability initiatives helps our community reduce, reuse and recycle.



Our Sustainability & Student Leadership programs are a cornerstone of our efforts. Through Y-TOSS, we diverted 18 tons of reusable items from landfills, with an additional 850 tons diverted via our Thrift Shop. Sales from these items directly support our student leadership and youth development programs. Furthermore, we donate up to \$3,500 in essential items to families in need, referred by partner organizations. This creates a powerful cycle of environmental stewardship and community investment.



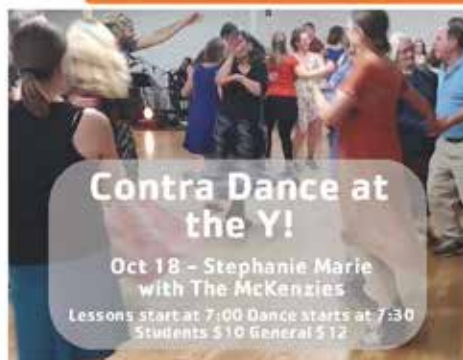
### Y EMPTY BOWLS

Tues, October 14  
5:30pm-8:00pm

Tickets available NOW  
[www.vtymca.org](http://www.vtymca.org)

### INVEST IN THE NEXT 150 YEARS!

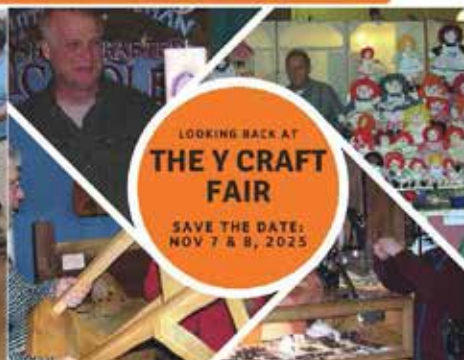
The YMCA at Virginia Tech is changing lives in every corner of the New River Valley—whether you've lived here your whole life, came here to study, or moved around the globe to find your new home. Your support of our 150th Anniversary Campaign is vital to the future of our community.



### Contra Dance at the Y!

Oct 18 - Stephanie Marie  
with The McKenzies

Lessons start at 7:00 Dance starts at 7:30  
Students \$10 General \$12



### LOOKING BACK AT THE Y CRAFT FAIR

SAVE THE DATE:  
NOV 7 & 8, 2025

[www.vtymca.org](http://www.vtymca.org)