

The Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair: Chris Thile



Devin Pedde

Chris Thile is a musical omnivore. A creator of powerful and poignant music, the mandolin virtuoso and charismatic singer's work is influenced by seemingly disparate worlds, proving that great music is great music, regardless of genre. Thile's season-long residency focuses on his performance and compositional skills, revealing the unique art of a performing composer as well as the evolution of collaborative composition. An essential voice in American music today, Thile is a multiple Grammy Award winner, a MacArthur Fellow, and—since 2016—the host of public radio's popular *Live from Here* (formerly *A Prairie Home Companion*).

At the beginning of his residency, Thile is joined by singer-songwriter friends in Zankel Hall for a program that includes the "Song of the Week" output for his weekly radio show. The following month, he gives two back-to-back solo concerts on the same night in Weill Recital Hall. In March 2019, he is joined by guest artists to explore bluegrass's Scots and Irish roots in a concert that opens Carnegie Hall's *Migrations: The Making of America* festival. Culminating the series in a very special event in May, Thile leads his longtime bands Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers in the groups' first full performance together.

Chris Thile first played at Carnegie Hall in 2005 and has since performed at the Hall six more times over the past decade, including two sold-out shows in Zankel Hall. He first rose to fame as a member of the Grammy-winning trio Nickel Creek, with whom he released four albums and sold more than two million records before going on "indefinite hiatus" in 2007. In 2014, the trio reunited for a new album, *A Dotted Line*—their first since 2005—and a national tour. Punch Brothers, which Thile formed in 2006, released its latest album, *The Phosphorescent Blues*, in 2015, and a follow up EP, *The Wireless*, later the same year. As a soloist, Thile has released six albums, including his most recent, last year's *Thanks for Listening*, a collection of songs that were originally written for performance on his radio show. His collaborations include a double-album with pianist Brad Mehldau, titled *Chris Thile & Brad Mehldau*; a pair of albums with his musical mentor, bassist Edgar Meyer—the second of which won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album; the Grammy-winning *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, with Yo-Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, and Stuart

Duncan; and *Bach Trios* with Ma and Meyer. Thile made his first appearance on *A Prairie Home Companion* in 1996 at the age of 15 and returned numerous times. In fall 2016, he took over as host of this public radio favorite, which was renamed *Live from Here* in December 2017.



Chris Thile

Tuesday, October 23 at 7:30 PM | Zankel

Chris Thile: The Song of the Week Show

Chris Thile, Mandolin and Vocals

Sarah Jarosz, Vocals

Aoife O'Donovan, Vocals

Additional artists to be announced

Chris Thile's outstanding songwriting skills are given the spotlight on his weekly radio show, *Live from Here*. For this performance, he is joined by frequent duet partners Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O'Donovan in favorite installments from the program's popular "Song of the Week" segment, bringing these songs of "gentle humor and musical imagination" (*Uncut*) from the airwaves to the stage.

Wednesday, November 28 at 6:30 PM and 9:30 PM | Weill

Chris Thile, Mandolin and Vocals

In two intimate Weill Recital Hall shows, Chris Thile—this season's holder of the Debs Composer's Chair—performs a program that includes an original piece commissioned for the occasion by Carnegie Hall, as well as works by Bach and other selections sure to delight and excite.



Support for the 125 Commissions Project is provided by members of Carnegie Hall's Composer Club.

Saturday, March 9 at 5:45 PM | Stern/Perelman

Chris Thile and Friends: My Love Is in America

Chris Thile, Host, Mandolin, and Vocals

Additional artists to be announced

Opening Carnegie Hall's *Migrations: The Making of America* festival, Chris Thile leads an evening of traditional Scots, Irish, and American folk music—including old-time and bluegrass—that explores the evolution of these traditions and their continued impact on one another.

This concert is part of *Migrations: The Making of America*.

Wednesday, May 8 at 8 PM | Stern/Perelman

Nickel Creek

Chris Thile, Mandolin | **Sara Watkins**, Fiddle

Sean Watkins, Guitar

Punch Brothers

Chris Eldridge, Guitar | **Paul Kowert**, Bass | **Noam Pikelnny**, Banjo

Chris Thile, Mandolin | **Gabe Witcher**, Fiddle

For the first time, Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers appear on the same bill for an evening of the two main branches of Chris Thile's musical family tree.

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