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**BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN TO OPEN SHELDON FOLK SERIES AND
PERFORM MUSIC FROM THEIR NEWLY ANNOUNCED ALBUM**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents **Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn**, Friday, October 20, 2017 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn have mastered the deceptively intricate art of the duet, utilizing just two banjos and one voice. Washburn’s beguiling vocals, blended with Fleck’s riveting and virtuosic musicianship create music unique yet familiar, with influences ranging from Americana and bluegrass to blues and gospel.

Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn, “the king and queen of the banjo” (*Paste Magazine*), have a musical partnership like no other. Fleck, a sixteen-time Grammy Award winner, has taken the banjo across multiple genres, while Washburn, a singer-songwriter and claw-hammer banjo player, re-radicalized it by combining Far East culture and sounds into her music. The pair performs music from their self-titled debut that earned the 2016 Grammy for Best Folk Album and the newly announced follow up, *Echo in the Valley* (October 20 /Rounder), a deep exploration of the complexities of the banjo duet.

Fleck has the virtuosic, jazz-to-classical ingenuity of an iconic instrumentalist and composer with bluegrass roots. With his standard-setting ensemble Béla Fleck and the Flecktones and a broad array of musical experiments, from writing concertos to exploring the banjo’s African roots to jazz duos with Chick Corea, Fleck has been called the world’s premier banjo player. Washburn has the earthy sophistication of a postmodern, old-time singer-songwriter, and has drawn critical acclaim for her solo albums. She has also done fascinating work in folk musical diplomacy in China, presented an original theatrical production, contributed to singular side groups Uncle Earl and The Wu-Force, and has become a popular live draw in her own right.

Tickets are limited! Single tickets are \$45 orchestra/\$40 balcony and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon’s website at TheSheldon.org, or in person at The Fox Theatre Box Office, 534 N. Grand Blvd. For a VIP concert experience, All-Access tickets are available by calling 314-533-9900, ext. 17. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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