

Sunday, April 14, 2013, 11am & 3pm  
Wheeler Auditorium

*First Stage for Families*

## Trout Fishing in America



Trout Fishing

*Cal Performances' 2012–2013 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*

**TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA** is the longstanding yet seemingly unlikely musical partnership of **Keith Grimwood** and **Ezra Idlet**. As individuals, they are about as different as one can imagine. Together, they blend seamlessly in a way that has captured the imagination (and hearts) of audiences of all ages for over three decades. Ezra on guitar and banjo stands 6'8" tall while Keith on bass stretches to 5'5½" on a humid day. Ezra is more playful and extroverted, while Keith is more serious and reserved. Each of them bring out the best in the other, and the joy that comes from this musical interaction is contagious and impossible to deny. Their children's CD, *Big Round World*, earned Trout Fishing in America their fourth Grammy Award nomination. Their next release was a folk-pop CD called *Lookin' at Lucky* in September 2010. Their most recent release is a children's book/CD, *Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important*, released through Secret Mountain Publishing.

A brief history of Trout Music: Keith Grimwood began playing music professionally when he was still in his teens. In school, he made the Texas All-State Orchestra four years in a row, and he later earned a degree in music from the University of Houston. At age 22, he landed a position with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. Keith put himself through college playing pop music in local clubs, and that led to his fortuitous meeting with Ezra. Ezra Idlet attended McClennan College in Waco, Texas on a basketball scholarship. He was a "one-and-done" player, but not exactly because of his incredible basketball skills. Instead, he decided to leave college and pursue his true love, a lifetime of playing music. In 1976, Keith and Ezra met as members of the Houston-based eclectic folk-rock band St. Elmo's Fire. They became the best of friends and musical partners. When St. Elmo's dissolved in 1979, Trout Fishing in America (named for Keith's love of Richard Brautigan's writing and Ezra's love of fishing) was officially born.

Trout Fishing in America was in the first wave of artist-owned labels (Trout Records) to successfully record and market their own music. In 2008, *Performing Songwriter* magazine chose Trout as one of the top 100 most influential independent artists in the past 15 years.

Their infectious mix of folk-pop and family music is the result of their diverse backgrounds as well as growing up in the musical melting pot that is Texas. Their recordings have garnered three National Indie Awards, multiple Parents Choice and NAPPA Gold awards, the American Library Award, as well as four Grammy nominations. In 1992, Trout relocated their families to the Ozark Mountains of northwest Arkansas. Besides being a lovely place to live and raise a family, this central location helped to expand their touring territory to all 50 United States and several Canadian provinces.

Since the beginning, Keith and Ezra have played shows for kids as well as adults. Sharing knowledge and encouraging art has become another musical mission of Trout. In the past few years, they have developed a variety of songwriting workshops for teachers and students that illustrate how art and music come from the fabric of everyday life. Their willingness to make fun of our most annoying habits in one song, then touch our hearts with tender and passionate images of family life in the next, is what makes the connection between Trout Fishing in America and their audience so real.