



Friday, February 27, 2026, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## Chris Thile, *mandolin and vocals*

*This evening's performance will last approximately two hours  
and be performed without intermission.*

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—  
one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.  
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**A**claimed 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 UK’s *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 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, the first season is available on all podcast platforms, with Season Two exclusively out on Audible.

The wide-ranging program of Thile’s 2025–26 solo performances will feature selections from his acclaimed solo recordings of Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas—including the second volume released last autumn—alongside his signature post-genre blend of compositional rigor, folksy stagecraft, and improvisational brilliance.