

bravo!

Classical and modern music crossover

Edgar Meyer and Chris Thile bring chamber bluegrass to Beaver Creek tonight

Daily staff report

NEWSROOM@VAILDAILY.COM

VAIL — Mandolinist Chris Thile has come a long way since he and the members of Nickel Creek met at a pizza place in California in 1989. Tonight, he'll perform with bassist Edgar Meyer on the Vilar Performing Arts Center stage in Beaver Creek.

Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival presents its next concert in the Big Music for Little Bands series at 6 p.m. today with a chamber bluegrass program featuring Thile and Meyer.

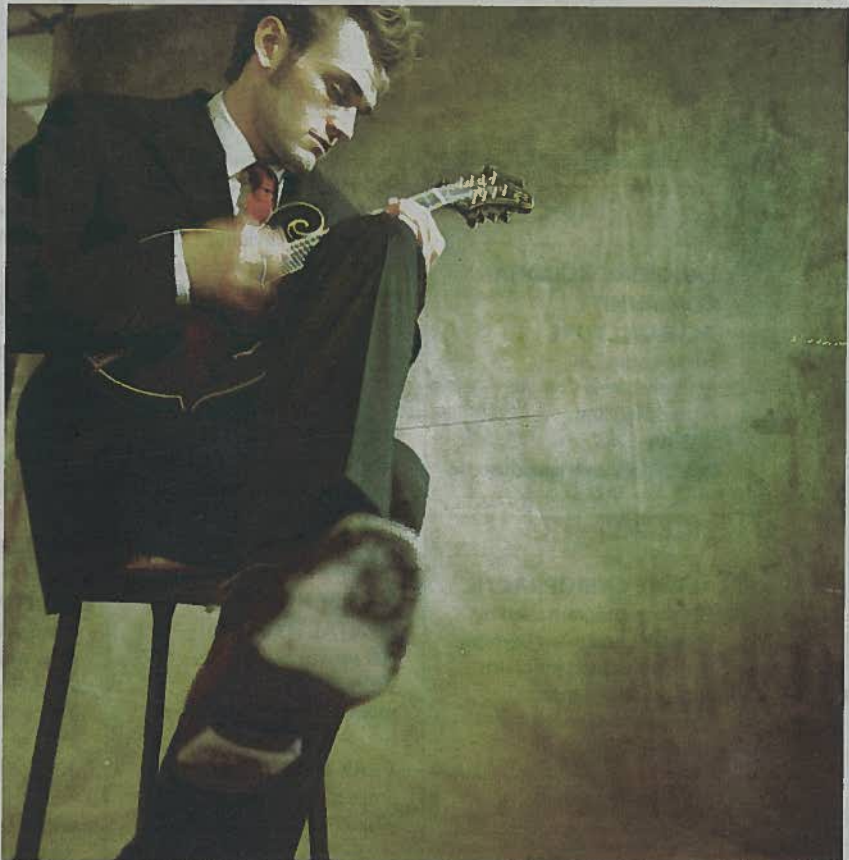
"This is a unique twist on the classical Bravo! repertoire, with bluegrass sounds from Thile on the mandolin and Meyer on the double bass," said Jacqueline Taylor, Bravo!'s artistic administrator.

The duo are hinging on a side of music that combines the classical themes of some of the greatest composers with the here and now, creating an inspiring evening for all generations of music lovers, Taylor said.

"You know, it's not obvious to everybody but mandolin and bass can be an excellent instrumentation," Meyer said. "Like the way they interact dynamically and the way they contrast each other and don't get in each other's space. Concerning crossover (between classical and modern), there are more and more people who have grown up with multiple lines of musical inquiry. I think it makes the whole thing more interesting."

Both Meyer and Thile are respected as virtuoso instrumentalists and trailblazing composers and feed off the respect they have for each other when on stage.

"Chris is unique. I can't think of another musician with his combination of abilities," Meyer said. "When Chris came on the scene ... it was a



SPECIAL TO THE DAILY
Mandolinist Chris Thile and double bassist Edgar Meyer bring jazz, folk and chamber music to the Vilar Performing Arts Center stage at 6 p.m. today for Bravo!'s Big Music For Little Bands.

wonderful feeling that the next generation was going to take things well beyond what we had imagined."

Thile, who has progressed from Nickel Creek to his current group, Punch Brothers, is also thrilled to be on stage with Meyer.

"Edgar is one of the biggest influences on my musical life, and now I'm in a duo with him and writing songs with him," Thile said. "This was my dream."

Tonight's program will be a journey into chamber bluegrass. There will be spontaneity of jazz with folk music, Taylor said.

"Designing musical evenings is complex," Meyer said. "On the one hand, it is essential for all of the people

i If you go ...

What: Big Music For Little Bands with Edgar Meyer and Chris Thile.

Where: Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek.

When: 6 p.m. today.

Cost: \$27.

More information: Call 877-812-5700, or visit www.vailmusic.org.

in the room to be connected and experience something together, and at the same time, it would be great to challenge everybody ... there is no simple formula."