

# Your Theatre Announces Cast for “Almost, Maine”

Your Theatre, Inc., director Bob Gillet of Fall River, MA, has cast nineteen South Coast actors for the March production of *Almost, Maine*, by John Cariani.

The nineteen cast members are Bob Goodwin of Bristol, Mellanie Crowther and Caroline Paradis of Fairhaven, Ken Raposa, Stacy Tinkham and Jason Trenholm of Fall River, Susan Wing Markson of Lakeville, Frank Mitchell, Stephanie Paquette, Casey Rhinehart, Wes Sahlin, Ian Vincent, Al Vitale and Maurene Walker of New Bedford, Sarah Morse of S. Dartmouth, Michael McGill, John Sheppard, and Dennis Smith of Tiverton, and Elena Murphy of Wareham. The stage manager is Maria Dawson of West Warwick. Set design is by Mark P. Fuller of New Bedford, lighting design is by Lawrence R. Houbre, Jr. and sound design is by William C. Smith of Dartmouth.

On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of *Almost, Maine*. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, *Almost's* residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – almost – in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

Your Theatre, Inc. is grateful to our 69th Season Sponsor, Bank5, for their fourth year of strong support for the arts.

Performance dates are March 10-12 and March 17-19 at 8:00 p.m. and March 13 and 20 at 2:30PM. Performances are held at the wheelchair accessible Your Theatre, Inc. Playhouse located at 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church complex. Free off-street parking

entrance is on County Street.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for season subscribers (three show minimum), and \$13 for senior citizens, students, and military personnel. For further information call Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or send an email to [info@yourtheatre.org](mailto:info@yourtheatre.org). The theatre's web site is [www.yourtheatre.org](http://www.yourtheatre.org)

**Zeiterion presents  
“Bodytraffic”: Breaking the  
Boundaries of Traditional  
Dance**

Los Angeles-based BODYTRAFFIC, named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" in 2013, is an internationally acclaimed contemporary dance company known for commissioning repertory from the world's most acclaimed contemporary choreographers. Praised for its "confident, hard-hitting" (LA Weekly) execution in a wide range of styles, BODYTRAFFIC has surged to the forefront of the dance world. Their New Bedford debut will feature works by Barak Marshall, Richard Siegal and Victor Quijada on Saturday, February 27 at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$27-\$47 and are available at [www.zeiterion.org](http://www.zeiterion.org) or by calling 508-994-2900. Tickets can also be purchased at The Zeiterion Box Office, 648 Purchase Street in New Bedford.

BODYTRAFFIC uniquely reflects LA's diverse landscape – warm, innovative, and sexy. Known for their ability to communicate

the sheer joy of dance, they have invigorated new audiences and experienced dance enthusiasts throughout the country. Their ever-growing repertory by today's most distinctive choreographic voices is inspiring, accessible, and challenging. BODYTRAFFIC's family of vibrant dancers drives the company's commitment to art and entertainment.

BODYTRAFFIC will kick off its performance with Israeli-American choreographer Barak Marshall's piece *And at midnight the green bride floated through the village square...* According to Marshall, the piece, inspired by a real Yemen family, "is a morality tale filled with dark humor." Set to an eclectic score ranging from traditional Yiddish, Ladino and Judeo-Arabic sayings and songs, to the Barry Sisters' *Chiribim Chiribom*, "*And at midnight...*" showcases Marshall's innovative aesthetic, recognized for its intense gestural vocabulary and fusion of contemporary movement with physical theatre.

The second piece, *Once again, before you go* is by a choreographer Victor Quijada whose work applies a range of modern to hip-hop ideology, and examines humanity through a unique fusion of classical and street aesthetics. Quijada grew up dancing in the hip-hop culture of his native Los Angeles before moving on to some of North America's most acclaimed ballet and contemporary dance companies. Bringing his wide-ranging influences into a singular style, Quijada's piece deals with relationships and explores a number of different stories with an intimate cast of four male dancers and just one female. It was created to a newly commissioned score by Jasper Gahunia, a classically trained composer who regularly performs as a competitive DJ. His composition combines classical music with turntable techniques from hip hop and dance music.

The program concludes with the cheerful and exuberant *o2Joy*. Choreographed by Munich Dance Award Winner Richard Siegal, *o2Joy* pays adoring tribute to American jazz standards and features music by Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Glenn

Miller and The Oscar Peterson Trio. The work is ballet based, peppered with syncopated hip-hop, and drenched in light-hearted humor. As its' title suggests, o2Joy is the piece is an expression of sheer joy through music and movement, promising to end BODYTRAFFIC'S New Bedford debut on a high note.

BODYTRAFFIC is helping establish Los Angeles as a major center for contemporary dance. Founded in 2007 by Co-Artistic Directors Lillian Barbeito and Tina Finkelman Berkett, the company is already internationally recognized for its high quality and vitality. BODYTRAFFIC has performed throughout the United States and in Canada. In June 2012, the company made its Joyce Theater (NYC) debut; in September 2013, BODYTRAFFIC made its Walt Disney Concert Hall debut at the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Opening Night Gala performance; and this past summer marked BODYTRAFFIC's Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival debut.

Tickets to BODYTRAFFIC are \$27-\$47 and available for purchase at [www.zeiterion.org](http://www.zeiterion.org), by calling 508-994-2900, or in person at the box office at 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA. Box Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and two hours before each performance.

BODYTRAFFIC's appearance at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center is part of the 2015/16 "Stories Untold" season. From September through May, this collection of 50 theater, music, comedy and dance performances will present tales told in many ways – from nationally syndicated NPR radio storytelling hour, "The Moth," to classic tales told through dance with The Moscow Festival Ballet's "Cinderella" and Arlo Guthrie's fantastically woven yarn that led to the classic song and album, "Alice's Restaurant."

**VIDEO CLIPS:**

“And at midnight, the green bride floated through the village square... ” by Barak Marshall: <https://vimeo.com/106251397>

“Once Again, Before You Go” by Victor Quijada: <https://vimeo.com/126697148>

“o2Joy” by Richard Siegal: <https://vimeo.com/84006644>

---

# **The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra presents: Britten, Schumann & Mussorgsky**

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra opens the second half of its centennial season on February 20 with Britten, Schumann & Mussorgsky featuring cellist Carter Brey. The concert will take place at 7:30pm at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center in downtown New Bedford. With just three concerts remaining this season, this is the final opportunity to subscribe and save 10% on concert tickets, plus no ticketing fees. To subscribe, call the NBSO at 508-999-6276.

The program includes Britten’s Four Sea Interludes from “Peter Grimes,” whose four haunting scenes capture the physical and emotional atmosphere of the sea. Cellist Carter Brey will bring us Schumann’s lyrical and romantic Cello Concerto in A Minor. His playing has been called “brilliant” (New York Times) and his technique “nearly flawless” (Washington Post). Mr. Brey has served since 1996 as principal cellist of the New York Philharmonic, while performing as a soloist with many of America’s major symphony orchestras. Then Mussorgsky’s colorful Pictures at an Exhibition, with orchestration by Maurice Ravel, takes concertgoers on a promenade through an

art exhibit. Concert sponsor is BayCoast Bank.

Prior to the concert, join Dr. David MacKenzie for a free informal talk on the evening's program at 6:30pm in the Penler space, adjacent to the theater.

Single concert tickets are \$25–\$60. Student tickets for children and students under age 22 are always \$10 and are available by calling or visiting the Box Office (not available online); student tickets can also be added to a season ticket subscription. Single concert tickets are available through The Z Box Office in person, by phone 508-994-2900, or online at [www.nbsymphony.org](http://www.nbsymphony.org). The Z Box Office is located at 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, and is open Tuesday through Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-3pm (closed Sunday and Monday). The theater is fully handicap accessible. Free and convenient parking is available in the adjacent municipal garage.

The New Bedford Symphony celebrates its 100th anniversary this 2015-16 season! In 1915, New Bedford schoolteacher Clarence Arey founded a symphony orchestra to bring classical music to our region. Today, the NBSO is a superb professional orchestra that performs with internationally renowned guest artists, annually presenting a 7-concert series of classical and pops music and a 4-concert chamber music series, as well as providing nationally recognized educational programs for the children of South Coast. You deserve a symphony in your life—the New Bedford Symphony! Visit us at [www.nbsymphony.org](http://www.nbsymphony.org).

---

---

# Jasmine Guy, star of “Different World” to offer Master Class in Acting to New Bedford High School Students

Nationally known television, stage and film actress Jasmine Guy will be in New Bedford to star in “Raisin’ Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey” at The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center on Friday, February 5. In addition to her evening mainstage performance, and a 10:00am performance for regional schools, the Zeiterion has arranged for Ms. Guy to host a free master class in acting with New Bedford High School theater students Thursday, February 4 from 1:00-2:00pm in New Bedford High School’s Little Theater.

“New Bedford High School offers outstanding visual and performing arts opportunities, and we’re excited to welcome Jasmine Guy’s master class in theatre to our school,” said Bernadette Coelho, New Bedford High School Headmaster. “This great opportunity through a partnership with the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center will give our students the chance to experience a professional, high-quality acting class to broaden their backgrounds in the performing arts.”

Ms. Guy will coach actors in the art of monologues to improve their work and process. By sharing her professional experience in television and film, Jasmine will focus on the process of creating reality from the imagined. The workshop will center on characterization, presentation and discovery. Several students from the class will be selected to present monologues and receive one on one instruction, while the full class observes and learns.

Lynn Souza, Director of Fine Arts says, “The experience will

be incredibly valuable for the students because they will get immediate feedback from a working professional in the field. They are excited and cannot wait to welcome Ms. Guy to New Bedford High School.”

Jasmine Guy’s free master class in acting is part of the Zeiterion’s diversity of programs that deepen students’ curiosity and creativity, and open their minds to a world of possibilities. Zeiterion programs for students include the SchoolTime Performance Series, serving 30,000 children throughout the region, The Teen Ambassador Program, The Creative Classroom and more. For more information about The Zeiterion’s education offerings, please visit <http://zeiterion.org/category/education/>.

---

## **February, when Folks ‘Love to hate to Love’**

No question, all poets are in love... in love with words! So this February the spotlight is on Poets of New Bedford! Your Theatre’s first poetry coffeehouse is coming soon and promises to be an electric event. We are fortunate that our first act includes five accomplished local poets who will demonstrate the power and promise of poetry.

New Bedford’s Poet Laureate and our emcee is Patricia Gomes. All who know Pat know she’s an enthusiastic poetry advocate. An award-winning poet, she has published in countless literary journals and written four books. She regularly performs as well as runs poetry workshops for both students and adults. Co-founder of the Greater New Bedford Writers’ Block Workshop, she is a member of the Bartley Scrivener Poetry Group and the



Southcoast Horror Writers Association. (Does that tell you anything?)

Everett Hoagland, the area's first Poet Laureate from 1994-98, will be our first guest reader. Everett is well known locally for his teaching at UMA but has also impressed audiences in Cuba, China, West Africa and throughout the US. His poetry has been published in many fine periodicals, anthologies and college texts. He is the 2015 recipient of the Langsten Hughes Society Award.

Susan Grace, founder of New Bedford's Bartelby Scrivener Poetry Group which encourages fellow poets to share their creations, is our next guest. Having worked in the publishing world for more than thirty years as publisher, editor, journalist, designer, marketing/advertising manager and printing press assistant, she is now with New Bedford's Spinner Publications, promoting the history and culture of Southeast New England.

BJ Nooth came to poetry-writing later in life. After leaving a career in state government, she had the time to explore and develop her literary interests by working at Baker Books and her local library plus joining The Second Half at UMA (The Lifelong Learning Institute). Her connections with area writers and poets encouraged her to begin writing her life experiences, which then inspired her to facilitate a poetry group at The Second Half, something she has done for five semesters.

Catherine McLaughlin, our final guest reader, promises to leave us in awe. After 40 years teaching English at Framingham State, publishing four novels, several articles and memoirs, she has now retired to South Dartmouth and published her first poetry book.

And this only starts the evening's entertainment! Our second act will be a poetry slam with totally different poets! Come

to YTI Saturday Feb 6, 2016 (snow date Feb 20) at 7 pm for dessert and coffee / 7:30 for the event. Seating is limited so come early to Your Theatre Inc at 136 Rivet St, parking and entrance off County St. For additional information please call 508-993-0772 or email [poetry@yourtheatre.org](mailto:poetry@yourtheatre.org).

Performance to be held at the wheelchair accessible Your Theatre, Inc. Playhouse located at 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, at the St. Martin's Episcopal Church complex. Free parking is available off County Street.

LOVE TO HATE TO LOVE ~ Poetry of the Soul  
Admission \$10. Students/Seniors \$5.

---

---

## **NBHS Drama Club Presents 'Arsenic and Old Lace'**

The New Bedford High School Drama Club presents "Arsenic and Old Lace," by Joseph Kesselring, with special permission from the Dramatists Play Service, Inc., with performances on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m.

A farcical, dark comedy that centers around the Brewster family, the play focuses on Mortimer Brewster's discovery that his two dear aunts have been on a murdering spree – and he must determine how to balance a host of subsequent problems including a delusional brother, another brother's botched plastic surgery and a fiancée without a clue about any of the trouble.

Sarah Cadieux, who along with Aaron Valente is directing the play, said this production will challenge actors and feature a unique stylistic performance.

“This play is different than the other farcical comedies the Drama Club has done in the recent past, and it is really helping the actors grow as performers,” said Ms. Cadieux. “My favorite part of this production is our staging concept. At the end of the last school year, I showed the 1944 film version of ‘Arsenic and Old Lace’ during class. One of my students, Kaylei Perry-Vacca, wondered if there would be a way to stage the production in black and white, so that the stage show would resemble the movie. I fell in love with the idea and spent the whole summer researching ways to make it happen. Thanks to advancements in stage makeup and my own training, we’re going ahead and presenting our performance entirely in grayscale – when the curtain opens, it’s going to look like a black and white movie, even down to using black food coloring to stain the students’ teeth and tongues!”

Student actors are excited about performing in this year’s production and previewed what some of their favorite parts of preparing for the play have been.

“My character, Mortimer, struggles with a lot of internal things: trying to relate to his family, trying to overcome his family’s challenges, and trying to cover up their mistakes,” said Tyler Rebello. “He’s also trying to stay out of trouble to impress his fiancée, but he’s not very successful.”

“It’s so rewarding to be surrounded by such phenomenal student actors that radiate positive energy,” said Olivia Marques. “The directors have done a fantastic job putting the show together thus far and I can’t wait to see the final product.”

“Personally, the most exciting part about this show for me is playing a kind of character I’ve never had the chance to play before,” said Kenzi Farland.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" will be performed by the NBHS Drama Club Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m., in the Bronspiegel Auditorium at New Bedford High, 230 Hathaway Boulevard.

Directed by Sarah G. Cadieux and Aaron Valente, with NBHS cast and crew Lillianne Condez, Zara Lemieux, Tyler Rebello, Tayber Lima, Jonathan Furtado, Justyn Silva-Bernardo, Christian Borges, Carina Borges, Olivia Marques, Kenzi Farland, Diana Lima, Joshua Botelho, Seth Sweeney, Brian Rego, Thea Racine, Danielle Guimont, Rebecca Tavares, Mason Duarte and Hannah Novo.

---

## **Don't Call it a Violin Show: Black Violin Comes to the Zeiterion**



By Mia Germain

*An unexpected blend of hip hop, Bach, and blue grass is coming to the Zeiterion Theater this Friday, May 29th at 8pm*

Come prepared for a party and see what all the hype is about as musical sensation Black Violin graces the stage of our Zeiterion Theater here in New Bedford. When they are not collaborating with the likes of Kanye West or Aretha Franklin, longtime friends Wil B and Kev Marcus are working together to break boundaries not only in musical composition but also in raising awareness of the importance of musical education.

The classically trained string instrumentalists display a mastery of their craft through their adaptations of rhythm and beats to better reflect their own signature style. The result is an inexplicable and unparalleled experience that is not to be missed.

After performing with Alicia Keys at the Billboard music awards in 2004 and winning Top 5 New Artists at the world-famous South by Southwest music festival in 2013, the duo has skyrocketed into musical acclaim for their incredible talent and extraordinary creativity. Opportunities to see them in such an intimate, local venue will soon become far and inbetween. Don't miss Black Violin this Friday evening at the Zeiterion Theater at 8 pm.

For tickets, visit <https://ticketing.zeiterion.org/public/>

For more about Black Violin, visit <http://blackviolin.net>

---

## **4th Annual New Bedford Jazzfest Survival Guide:**

# Talent, Food, Artists' Colony



*Jazz returns to Pier 3 in downtown New Bedford's historic waterfront for the fourth annual New Bedford JazzFest on Saturday, June 13 from 1:30-7:00 p.m.*

One of the most popular Spring events, the annual New Bedford Jazzfest, is quickly becoming a city tradition. The event, in its short 3 year history has become immensely popular because of the world-class musical talent, mouth-watering food, and quality vendors. If you are a fan of music, food and fun (in other words everyone ) then the Jazzfest is must-attend festival!

Taking place in the New Bedford Seaport Cultural District, NBJF showcases the best of the regional and the national jazz scene and provides exposure and financial support towards Your Theatre, Inc.(YTI), New Bedford's 68-year-old community theatre. NBJF believes that fostering music education and musical experience in youth is vital to the longevity of the art form and this year's sponsors which include Whaling City Sound and UMass Dartmouth make it all possible.



*The UMass College of Visual and Performing Arts will feature groups, like Native Spaces.*

The festival is a fantastic opportunity for not just jazz listeners, but for anyone that enjoys the atmosphere that a live music concert provides. When coupled with the food trucks, arts, crafts vendors and more, it becomes a safe, fun, and culturally rich environment for the whole family.

### **The Musical Talent**

At the heart of downtown New Bedford is the Seaport Cultural District and the working waterfront. Pier 3, adjacent to the Martha's Vineyard Ferry Terminal on MacArthur Drive, will serve as the location for the 1500 person main tent, ensuring that, rain or shine, the event will be scenic, comfortable and dry.

The main stage will showcase local, regional, national and even international talent – much of which is provided by one of the main sponsors and producers of the event, New Bedford based music label, Whaling City Sound. WCS has had three new albums in the top ten of the National jazz charts in the last two years and their newest release, *Kind of New*, by Jason Miles will be the headline act this year.

Here are just some of the act that you will encounter during the day's show:

- **The Nina Ott Group:** bringing lively Latin/Afro-Cuban

Jazz to the stage, this ultra talented group have been Berklee College of music instructors, playing, teaching and recording around the country and are now bringing their diverse talent to the south coast.

- **The Candida Rose:** is a Cape Verdean vocal powerhouse, leading an all female cast of musicians through classic tunes and world music. She will also be singing her “KabuJazz” with the Women in World Jazz group.
- **Jason Miles:** Headlining will be Whaling City Sound recording artist Jason Miles who just came back from the Cape Town International Jazz Festival in Africa in support of his new album which is already on the most requested list for national radio. We anticipate that Kind of New will top the jazz charts at No.1 within the next few months. Working as a keyboardist, arranger and producer, Miles has worked in a multitude of genres and performed at festivals and stages around the world including the Monterey Jazz Festival, Tokyo Blue Note, and the Cape Town International Jazz Festival in Africa.
- **The Southcoast Jazz Orchestra:** The orchestra has become the “house band” as they are returning for their fourth consecutive year bringing the big and classic sounds of a 17-piece band to our festival.
- **UMass Dartmouth College of Visual and Performing Arts:** jazz groups who will perform on the Second Stage, including Native Spaces.

#### **Bar, beer, food, crafts and the Artists’ Colony!**

A full cash bar, featuring local breweries, and a trio of gourmet food trucks will help create a great ‘festival feel’. Our partnership with the New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! brings back The Artists’ Colony: a craft market for the thriving local and regional arts and craft scene.





*The 17-piece  
Southcoast Jazz  
Orchestra will be  
returning for  
their fourth year  
running.*

Placed adjacent to the Main Tent and the food area, The Artists' Colony presents handmade crafts and original artwork representing a variety of styles and mediums that is reflective of the region's vibrant arts scene. Of course, CDs and Jazzfest t-shirts will also be available for purchase.

Fantastic music, delicious food, refreshing libations, and the unique atmosphere of New Bedford's historic waterfront will combine to provide a singular experience during the fourth annual New Bedford JazzFest. Find out why the event has skyrocketed into popularity – you certainly don't have to have a love for jazz to enjoy the festival. In fact, chances are, after attending one event, you may leave as a new fan!

Tickets, \$20 in advance  
(Purchase: <http://yourtheatre.org/yti/index.php?page=jazz4>),  
may be ordered through the Your Theatre box office at  
508-993-0772, online at [NewBedfordJazzfest.com](http://NewBedfordJazzfest.com), or at the  
Symphony Music Shop, State Road in North Dartmouth. Tickets at  
the gate are \$25. Children 15 and under are free when  
accompanied by an adult. Through cooperation with the city,  
NBJF is able to provide free parking on the adjacent State

Pier and at Elm St. Garage which is within three blocks of Pier 3.



*Jazz returns to Pier 3 in downtown New Bedford's historic waterfront for the fourth annual New Bedford JazzFest on Saturday, June 13 from 1:30-7:00 p.m.*

---

ngg\_shortcode\_0\_placeholder

---

---

## **Pinkalicious the Musical Preview: Get Tickled Pink!**



By Mia Germain

*Pinkalicious the Musical is coming from NYC to New Bedford's Zeiterion Theater this Sunday, April 26th*

Predictions are calling for a sea of pink swarming downtown's cobblestone streets this coming Sunday afternoon. Grab your pinkest, sparkliest duds, a cupcake towering with frosting, and a ticket to Pinkalicious for an unforgettable outing.

Based on the popular New York Times best-selling children's picture book Pinkalicious by sisters Elizabeth Kann and Victoria Kann and music, lyrics and orchestration by John Gregor of *WITH GLEE*, this light hearted musical is sure to mesmerize children and parents alike. Perfect for a day with the family, this whimsical tale of a girl who loves pink, pink, pink-everything pink-teaches us not only to eat our greens, but the best thing to do is always be you.



Pinkalicious Pinkerton has a bit of a sweet tooth-if by a bit we mean that she's eaten so many cupcakes that her skin turns a beautiful shade of pink. The doctor prescribes a dose of green-vegetables, that is. But can she hold out on the pink cupcakes? Or will she have to sneak one-just one?

The silliest stories seem to always be the most memorable. Written for children ages 4-8, the heartwarming story is a sweet confection for people of all ages. Not only does it entertain, but reminds us of the importance of childrens theater and awakening the imagination.

This is the perfect show for sharing, so grab a ticket for you and your family, and your friends too!

For tickets visit [www.ticketing.zeiterion.org](http://www.ticketing.zeiterion.org)

For more information about Pinkalicious the Musical visit [www.pinkaliciousthemusical.com](http://www.pinkaliciousthemusical.com)

---

## Our Interview with Béla Fleck



By Mia Germain

## **Rhythm, Blues, and Appalachian Murder Ballads**

*Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn coming to the Zeiterion Theater this Sunday, April 12th, 7PM*

Fifteen-time GRAMMY winner, Béla Fleck, and his wife Abigail Washburn have teamed up for an incredible example of the versatility and musicality of the banjo. Stringing together influences from jazz to appalachian murder ballads, the unique result is entirely captivating and a true feat of art. Both industry giants on their own, this partnership has proved to be one of talent, creativity, and ingenuity. The culmination of their eclectic relationship is a moment in music history that is not to be missed. For tickets please visit <http://www.zeiterion.org/>

I had the pleasure of interviewing Béla, where he revealed his love for the Massachusetts Southcoast, the trifles of being a couple in a group, and what we can hope to see from the duo in the future.

**Mia Germain – Have either of you been to this area before? If so, what are your favorite things about the south coast of Massachusetts?** Béla Fleck – I have had the good fortune to play New Bedford at least 3 times that I can remember and possibly 4! I've played there with The Flecktones, with the African Project, and in duet with Chick Corea. I'm so happy to get to play there again, with my wife Abigail Washburn. Also I used to live in Boston – way back – and I spent a lot of time in the area. I love it.



Photo by Jim McGuire

**Mia Germain – Both of your careers have taken you to incredible places around the world, how does place and setting influence your music?**

Béla Fleck – I feel like a great experience can happen anywhere, and some of the best are outside of the major cities.

Audiences really appreciate your visit, and you also don't compete with as many shows for attention.

That said, it's fun to play 'destination gigs' like Telluride Bluegrass Festival, or Newport Folk/Jazz Fests, where the location is part of the draw.

Give me a funky old theatre though, and I get comfy and tend to play at my best.

**Mia Germain – You have done some informal collaborations before this album, but what is the musical dynamic between you like when it is all off the record-before this album and now?**

Béla Fleck – Abby and I have been playing together since we became a couple, music is a part of our couplehood.

And when we formalized that natural collaboration, and started taking it on the road, it was an unexpectedly smooth transition.

We are very comfortable with each other, and there is a lot of trust, so sometimes it means we push each other into unfamiliar waters, and take more risks that we might in a less safe environment. But mostly it just flows and we have a lot of fun playing our banjos together.

**Mia Germain – On this album, how was the collaboration and songwriting process as a couple different-or not-from both of your experiences previous?**

Béla Fleck – This is the first one where it was just the two of us. That felt really good.

In the past, I have helped Abby to produce her albums occasionally, and we worked together with the Sparrow Quartet, a wonderful group featuring Casey Driessen and Ben Sollee. But being a couple in a group is a trifle awkward.

This is a very direct interaction with no one in between.



Photo by Jim McGuire

**Mia Germain – How has this experience been, of touring as a family?**

Béla Fleck – It's truly 'living the dream', as so many people say to us.

So many of our musician friends have had to spend a lot of time away from their kids and partners in order to make the family bacon. In this situation we get to do it together, and be with our son Juno most of the time. He's acclimated well to the touring life, and we have a very special touring team who take care of him when we get busy. It's very sweet.

**Mia Germain – Obviously, the birth of your son was instrumental in the timing of this long-awaited collaboration, but how has he influenced your own musicality, and what effect can we hope to see in the future from his presence in your lives?**

Béla Fleck – Having a child makes a lot of things instantly clear – and what's important becomes very obvious very fast. So as a couple – it's no longer just about us, and we have embraced that. He also changed me from someone who really couldn't relate to kids that well to someone who really enjoys them.

As far as the music, my music has benefited from becoming less important in the scheme of things. I think I was overly obsessed with music sometimes, and it didn't always make the music better – it just made me edgy and nervous. Playing music feels very joyful and complete now.

And also I've written a few things that I just wouldn't have written before I became a father.

But Abigail is a huge influence on me too, and playing with her has brought out the more sensitive and melodic parts of my playing. I love it...

For more about Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn, their self-titled album, and future performance dates, please visit <http://mediakits.concordmusicgroup.com/p/bla-fleck-abigail-washburn/index.html>