

## NEWS RELEASE

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15 Livingston Ave | New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*State Theatre New Jersey presents*

## **Béla Fleck and the Flecktones**

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Friday, December 6, 2019, 8pm / \$39-\$75

**New Brunswick, NJ** (November 20, 2019)— State Theatre New Jersey presents the Grammy® Award-winning quartet **Béla Fleck and the Flecktones** on **Friday, December 6, 2019 at 8pm**. *Tickets range from \$39-\$75.*

Groundbreaking banjoist/composer/bandleader **Béla Fleck** has reconvened the original Béla Fleck & The Flecktones, the initial line-up of his incredible combo including **Howard Levy** on piano and harmonica, percussionist / drumitarist **Roy “Future Man” Wooten**, and bassist **Victor Wooten**. Together, they recently created *Rocket Science*, the first recording by the fab four Flecktones in almost two decades. Far from being a wistful trip back in time, the album sees the Grammy® Award-winning quartet creating some of the most forward thinking music of their long, storied career. While all manners of genres come into play—from classical and jazz to bluegrass and African music to electric blues and Eastern European folk dances—the result is an impossible to pigeonhole sound all their own, a meeting of musical minds that remains, as ever, utterly indescribable. Simply put, it is The Flecktones, the music made only when these four individuals come together.

In 1988, Béla formed the Flecktones for a single performance on PBS’ *Lonesome Pine Special*, and began touring in 1989. “The band was so fresh and powerful that we all wanted more of it,” says Victor, who describes the band as a family. “I think we gave other musicians the courage to be different.” From the start, there was a special kinship between the four musicians, a bond forged in a mutual passion for creativity and artistic advancement. Three breakthrough albums and live dates followed before Levy decided to move on in late 1992.

Béla Fleck & the Flecktones persevered, playing as a trio and with many special guests, before saxophonist **Jeff Coffin** joined the ensemble. A succession of acclaimed albums and innumerable live performances continued to earn the band a fervent fan following around the world, not to mention five Grammy® Awards in a range of categories. By 2008, the band had grown somewhat restive and embarked on a temporary hiatus.

One year later, all agreed that Flecktones music was beckoning them home. The band, which had always maintained a warm relationship with the gifted pianist/harmonica player, recruited Levy for a 2009 tour of the U.S. and Europe, an experience he describes as “extremely invigorating and very energizing.” Upon the tour’s conclusion, the four musicians agreed to further explore the band’s possibilities. For Fleck, Levy’s return enables the Flecktones to follow through on the original concept of a band “where each person was reinventing their instruments, where every one of us was a kind of mutant.”

Visionary and vibrant as anything in their already rich canon, *Rocket Science* feels more like a new beginning than simply the culmination of an early chapter. Where the band goes from here remains undetermined, but all four members agree that the promise of Béla Fleck & the Original Flecktones has yet to be fulfilled. “We’re going to have to have this experience together and see how everybody likes it,” Fleck says. “I know that we haven’t even come close to exhausting the possibilities with this record, but we sure went deeper than we ever had before.”

**For tickets, more information, or group discounts, call State Theatre Guest Services at 732-246-SHOW (7469), or visit us online at STNJ.org.** State Theatre Guest Services, located at 15 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick NJ, is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 6pm; Saturday from 1pm to 5pm; and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified. *Additional ticket and transaction fees may apply.*

***About State Theatre New Jersey***

*The theater exists to enrich people’s lives, contribute to a vital urban environment, and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through arts education. State Theatre New Jersey’s programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund. United is the official airline of the State Theatre.*

**STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY**

*Creating Extraordinary Experiences Through the Power of Live Performance*

15 Livingston Ave

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Guest Services - 732-246-SHOW (7469)

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**PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST**

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Information in this release is current as of November 20, 2019.

Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,

online at [STNJ.org](http://STNJ.org).

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