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## **Chick Corea and Béla Fleck to Release Their First-Ever Full Length Album Collaboration, *The Enchantment*, on May 22, 2007**

**“Pianist Chick Corea and banjoist Béla Fleck may not seem like a natural pairing... Supernatural is more like it.” – *The Washington Post***

New York, NY - On May 22, 2007, Concord Records will release *The Enchantment*, the first-ever full length album collaboration from jazz pianist Chick Corea and banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck, capturing the astonishing interplay between these two master musicians. Immensely popular in their own musical spheres – combined, they have won an astounding 20 Grammy awards – they have forged a true collaboration: the 11-track album features four compositions by Corea, including the title track, and six by Fleck. Also included is an unlikely and uniquely witty cover of the standard “Brazil.”

While *The Enchantment* is the duo’s first full-length release, their partnership dates to 1994, when Fleck – who credits Corea as one of his key musical influences – invited the pianist to play on the Flecktones’ *Tales from the Acoustic Planet* CD, as well as the group’s live album, *Live Art*. Corea returned the compliment by inviting Fleck to perform with him on his 2001 *Rendezvous in New York* DVD, and later, to tour with him as a duo. As the two developed repertoire for their tour, *The Enchantment* was born.

At first, the idea of pairing a jazz pianist and a progressive bluegrass banjoist may seem eccentric. But Chick Corea, once described by *Downbeat* as “jazz’s most protean and unpredictable character,” and Béla Fleck, who has long incorporated jazz elements into his music, share a spirit of open-minded creativity. The effortless flow of musical ideas between the two – precise, yet full of joy and rhythmic verve – is as extraordinary as the players’ virtuosity. Likewise, the instrumental combination is surprisingly potent. Says Corea, “They’re two very distinct sounds, but they’re very close to one another. Somehow, the way Béla plays and the notes he chooses... sound pianistic to me.” Their charts enhance this effect: unlike many duo projects where each musician takes extended solo excursions, Corea and Fleck’s lines typically mesh and intertwine as they join together on joyrides (and occasionally hayrides) through the songs. Latin, gospel, bluegrass, and gypsy styles serve as fleeting landmarks along the way.

Wrote the *Washington Post*’s Mike Joyce, “Pianist Chick Corea and banjoist Béla Fleck may not seem like a natural pairing, and the truth is, the duo’s performance at the Warner Theatre on Saturday night didn’t come across that way, either. Supernatural is more like it.

“...In each case, the compositions provided the duo with little more than sketch pads for colorful melodic embellishments, intricately woven contrapuntal passages and rhapsodic improvisations. Fleck’s grounding in bop-era jazz, with its emphasis on chromatic lines and rhythmic thrust, served him particularly well, yet there were also moments when it seemed as if Corea had managed to move his grand piano out onto Fleck’s back porch for a little pickin’ party.”

Transcending stylistic boundaries, **The Enchantment** is sure to meet a warm reception by not just jazz fans, but music fans across the world. The release is supported by an extensive tour across the States in June.

TRACKLISTING:

1. **Señorita** (5:20) - written by Chick Corea
2. **Spectacle** (4:40) - written by Béla Fleck
3. **Joban Dna Nopia** (6:28) - written by Chick Corea
4. **Mountain** (3:53) - written by Béla Fleck
5. **Children's Song #6** (4:02) - written by Chick Corea
6. **A Strange Romance** (4:46) - written by Béla Fleck
7. **Menagerie** (5:53) - written by Béla Fleck
8. **Waltse For Abby** (3:02) - written by Béla Fleck
9. **Brazil** (5:58) - written by Ary Barroso & Sidney Russell
10. **The Enchantment** (5:39) - written by Chick Corea
11. **Sunset Road** (4:36) - written by Béla Fleck

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