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BLUEGRASS, BANJO AND BEIJING: ABIGAIL WASHBURN PERFORMS AT WESLEYAN

**DARING SINGER-SONGWRITER BLENDS AMERICAN AND CHINESE ROOTS MUSIC CREATING
HER OWN ORIGINAL STYLE**

Middletown, Conn., March 5, 2007—Singer, songwriter and banjo player Abigail Washburn brings her unique blend of Appalachian mountain music and haunting Chinese melodies to Wesleyan for an evening of music, history and crossing cultural boundaries. Joining her on stage will be up and coming bluegrass cellist Ben Sollee. The performance takes place Saturday, March 31 at 8pm in Crowell Concert Hall on the Wesleyan campus. General admission is \$12 and \$10 for seniors and students. For more information and tickets, call 860-685-3355 or visit www.wesleyan.edu/cfa.

“...a daring singer-songwriter...”—World Café, National Public Radio

“...eclectic and inspiring...a daring talent, whose feel for the folk idiom results in moving material.”—Asian Wall Street Journal

Abigail Washburn merges her love of China with her own American roots music background. She sings and plays folk songs and original material in both Chinese and English. Washburn comments, “...I want to keep going to China and living a creative existence. I want to learn more about Chinese folk traditions, so I can integrate them into my music and continue to be a part of the development of a more universal language.”

On Washburn’s debut album *Song of the Traveling Daughter*, she shows off her considerable talents playing the banjo. The record also features musicians Bela Fleck, Ryan Hoyle of Collective Soul and Jordan McConnell of the Duhks. Washburn is also a member of the all-female string band Uncle Earl.

For more information on Abigail Washburn, visit: <http://www.abigailwashburn.com>

To watch a fascinating 10-minute documentary on Abigail Washburn’s tour of China visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvgJ9Hg7T4Q>

The Center for the Arts (www.wesleyan.edu/cfa) is an 11-building complex on the Wesleyan campus that houses the departments of art and art history, music, theater and dance, and also film studies classes and activities. It serves as a cultural center for the region, the state and New England. The CFA includes the 400-seat Theater, the 260-seat Cinema, the World Music Hall (a non-Western performance space), the 414-seat Crowell Concert Hall and the Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery.

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