



THE  
**SHELDON**  
Arts Without Borders

Chris Peimann  
Director of Marketing & Publicity  
cpeimann@TheSheldon.org

Sarah Samples  
Marketing & Group Sales Manager  
ssamples@TheSheldon.org

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## **The Sheldon Celebrates Missouri Bicentennial with Statewide Music Project**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The State of Missouri will commemorate its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 10, 2021 and The Sheldon is celebrating with an all-star concert and educational project entitled “**Show Me the Music: A Celebration of the Missouri Bicentennial.**”

Musicians from throughout Missouri, and representing a range of genres, will be featured on the concert event, to be recorded for future broadcast on all four PBS stations throughout the state.

Included on the program are bluegrass star **Rhonda Vincent** and her band The Rage; jazz pianist **Peter Martin** with an ensemble of top jazz musicians from St. Louis and Kansas City; blues and R&B vocalist **Anita Jackson**; Missouri fiddler **Howard Marshall**; ragtime pianist **Royce Martin**; and the **ZouM** faculty ensemble from the University of Missouri performing *Waterways*, a newly commissioned classical work by composer **Stefan Freund**.

Peter Palermo, executive director of The Sheldon, says, “Plans for the bicentennial have been taking shape for well over a year, and we are thrilled to announce this one-of-a-kind gathering of talent as part of the statewide celebrations.”

The Sheldon will continue to monitor city, state and federal COVID guidelines, and hope to be able to welcome a live, reduced-capacity audience to view the concert filming on May 19. More about possible ticket availability will be announced at a later date.

“Missouri has such a rich music history,” says Paul Reuter, project co-director, “and Missouri musicians have played huge roles in the creation and development of American music.”

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Co-Director Patrick Murphy, who has worked closely with Reuter on several projects over the years, including the Emmy Award winning “City of Music” on Nine PBS that celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of St. Louis, says, “I can’t think of a better way to celebrate the state bicentennial than through a celebration of the diverse musical creativity that has been part of our state’s history and continues to this day.”

“Show Me the Music” will also include a statewide educational component, with education materials on Missouri music and musicians made available to all K-12 schools in the state. Students will learn how Missouri musicians have contributed significantly to many genres of American music. Many people are familiar with the “King of Ragtime” Scott Joplin, rock and roll giant Chuck Berry, pop singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow and hip-hop star Nelly, but many are not as familiar with the Missouri roots of names such as blues vocalist Victoria Spivey, jazz trumpeter Clark Terry, jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker, country music talent scout and producer Ralph Peer, blues and rock pianist Johnnie Johnson, and operatic baritone Robert McFerrin, Sr.

“It is our hope,” says Reuter, “that young people learn about and enjoy new genres of music and the diverse peoples from all parts of the state who have created the music and continue to put Missouri at the center of the American music scene.”

For more information, visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org) or call 314-533.9900.

The project, endorsed by the Missouri Bicentennial Commission, is made possible by the Kemper Foundation – Commerce Bank, Trustee; the Missouri Arts Council; JPL Development LLC; the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation; Gary Hall and Sandra Blasingame; the St. Louis Cardinals; and the Budds Center for American Music at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

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