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## SHELDON'S MIZZOU NEW MUSIC COMMISSIONS CONTINUE WITH TWO NEW PIECES PREMIERING ONLINE MAY 12

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon and the Mizzou New Music Initiative announce the continuation of their virtual season, with the premiere of two new commissions on May 12, 2021 at 8 p.m. on The Sheldon's YouTube channel. These pieces are part of the 9<sup>th</sup> season of a partnership to introduce new music to the region. This month's premieres include *Ozark Autumn* by University of Missouri composition major Jack Snelling, and *Shibuya 2 (ya)* by Stefan Freund, artistic director of the Mizzou New Music Initiative and professor of composition at the University of Missouri. Both pieces were performed and recorded by members of St. Louis-based ensemble The 442s, with special guests Peter Henderson, piano and Brendan Fitzgerald, double bass, at the Sheldon Concert Hall on April 7.

Since 2012, The Sheldon has worked with the Mizzou New Music Initiative at the University of Missouri to commission new works that premiere live on the long-running Sheldon Classics series at the Sheldon Concert Hall. With live performances slowly coming back, with reduced audiences, the digital presentations of these world premieres introduce the composers and their works to a larger audience than ever before.

Performed variously by members of the world-renowned St. Louis Symphony, musicians from the St. Louis community, Mizzou faculty or fellow students, the commissions offer emerging composers the opportunity to premiere their works in a professional setting, and classical-music lovers the chance to experience some of today's most adventurous new music.

The Mizzou New Music Initiative brings together a diverse array of programs that positions the University of Missouri School of Music as a leading center for composition and new music. The Initiative is the direct result of the generous support of Dr. Jeanne and Mr. Rex Sinquefield, and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation.