



THE  
**SHELDON**  
Arts Without Borders

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE SHELDON CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ST. LOUIS - The Sheldon celebrates Black History Month, with a variety of programs and exhibitions that highlight Black perspectives and artistry. For more information, visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org) or call 314-533-9900.

### Concerts:

***Our Song, Our Story*, Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 8 p.m.  
with Damien Sneed, Justin Austin and Jacqueline Echols**

Created and directed by composer, conductor and multi-genre musician Damien Sneed, ***Our Song, Our Story*** is an evening of music highlighting some of the world's most well-known operatic arias, art songs and spirituals. The concert brings together two of today's most exciting operatic voices in a diverse and powerful event featuring **Jacqueline Echols** and **Justin Austin**, accompanied by a string quartet, with **Damien Sneed** on piano.  
*Presented with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis*

***Voices of Mississippi*, Friday, February 10, 2023 at 8 p.m.  
With Ruthie Foster, and Luther and Cody Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars**

*Voices of Mississippi* is a new multimedia event that celebrates the music, art and storytelling traditions of the people of Mississippi. Based on the 2019 double-Grammy Award-winning *Voices of Mississippi: Artists and Musicians Documented by William Ferris*, the program features live musical performances integrated with film, audio recordings and rare photographs by folklorist William "Bill" Ferris, who will serve as host for the evening. The show will feature musicians Ruthie Foster, and Luther and Cody Dickinson of the North Mississippi Allstars, all of whom have deep ties to Mississippi and the artists Ferris documented. *Sponsored by the William A. Kerr Foundation*

Tickets for both concerts are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 and through The Sheldon's website at [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

### **Sheldon Art Galleries Exhibitions and Events - Opening February 10 from 5 – 8 p.m., on view through May 6:**

#### **Bill Steber: *Hill Country Spirits***

Bill Steber is a photographer and artist from Tennessee. He has documented blues culture in the Mississippi Delta for over 20 years, chronicling the blues musicians, juke joints, churches, river baptisms, hoodoo practitioners, traditional farming methods, folk traditions and other significant traditions that gave birth to or influenced the blues. Steber's photographs are compassionate, poetic and capture the beauty of a moment.  
*Sponsored by Ryan Easley, Kristen Peterson and John Foster*

#### ***Stories and Songs with Bill Steber*, Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7 p.m.**

At this free program, Bill Steber will give an in-depth presentation about his work followed by a blues band performance in The Sheldon Ballroom. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

MORE...

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**Alayna N. Pernell: *Our Mothers' Gardens***  
*Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery*

*Our Mothers' Gardens* is a series uncovering repressed images of Black women held in photographic collections at the Art Institute of Chicago. The images often depict exploitation and violence towards Black women, whether overt or obscured. With these images, Pernell has excavated, re-photographed, re-captioned and re-contextualized the original works to show them in a different light with new meaning. Pernell has reimagined the work and draws attention to how, historically, Black identity has been erased and how this impacts the mental well-being of Black Americans.  
*Sponsored by Barbara and Arthur McDonnell*

**Artist Talk: Friday, February 10, 2023 at 11 a.m.**

Artist Alayna N. Pernell will present a free gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibition, *Our Mothers' Gardens*. The exhibition will be open to preview after the talk. [CLICK HERE](#) to register.

**Patrick Earl Hammie: *I AM...THE NIGHT***

Patrick Earl Hammie's *I AM...THE NIGHT* examines the television program *Soul Train* (1971-2006), and widely distributed 19th- and early 20th-century lynching photographs, to explore what has driven most of his work to date: Which narratives has he inherited? Which stories does he tell to create meaning for himself and inform meaning around others? Black people have survived the past—how do they thrive in the future? This work acknowledges centuries of racialized angst and terrorism, and visualizes how far both powerful and marginalized people go to alleviate fear and survive.

Gallery hours are Wednesday – Friday, Noon – 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information, visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

**Sheldon Education Concerts:**

**Drums & Dances of Africa, February 15 – 17, 2023**

**Tickets are limited but performances are still available for FREE virtual registration.**

*Featuring Diadie Bathily and Afriky Lolo.*

Introduce students to the sounds and movements of West Africa in this high energy education program! Performers take audiences on a journey to another culture, with music and dance that celebrate history, nature and community.

**Jazz Story, February 14, 10:30 a.m.**

*Featuring Carolbeth True, Blake Mickens, Kim Fuller, Randy Holmes, and Kevin Gianino*

Students will experience the story of America's unique creation, jazz – from Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday to Dave Brubeck and Herbie Hancock.

Tickets for live, in-person programs are \$4.50 per student. *Scholarships may be available to eligible schools.* The Sheldon continues to offer live-streaming performances of our most popular concerts this season, free of charge to both traditional and home schools, thanks to the Steward Family Foundation and many other generous donors. Visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org) to book a concert and make a reservation.

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*The Sheldon's exhibition series is sponsored by The Bellwether Foundation, Arts and Education Council, Regional Arts Commission, the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.*