



T H E
S H E L D O N
Arts Without Borders

Chris Peimann
Director of Advancement
cpeimann@TheSheldon.org

Sarah Samples
Marketing Manager
ssamples@TheSheldon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2022

THE SHELDON ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO SEND ALL-STAR CHORUS STUDENTS TO NEW YORK CITY AND CARNEGIE HALL

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon is pleased to announce a fundraising campaign to ***Send the Chorus to Carnegie!*** The Sheldon is asking for the public to help send The Sheldon’s City of Music All-Star Chorus students to New York City, June 22-26, 2023 for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to perform at Carnegie Hall! Led by the nationally acclaimed conductor Maria A. Ellis, the All-Star Chorus is made up of some of the most talented high school singers from across the St. Louis area including St. Louis Public Schools and Riverview Gardens High School. This opportunity will offer invaluable skills and experiences that will help prepare these students for their futures—no matter what their dreams may be. Ellis will serve as guest conductor for the concert, leading Robert Ray’s *Gospel Mass* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble, in New York’s iconic Carnegie Hall.

The Sheldon’s City of Music All-Star Chorus has a goal to raise \$30,000 before September 30, 2022!

Anyone wishing to donate can text-to-give at 314-582-8848 with special code: “**NYC**,” or visit TheSheldon.org/chorus. For more information, please call 314-533-9900 during normal business hours.

Maria A. Ellis is a passionate educator and conductor. She is the owner of Girl Conductor LLC, a company that creates diverse music education resources and currently serves as the director of The Sheldon’s City of Music All-Star Chorus and choral instructor at Sumner High School. Ellis is an active clinician, adjudicator and presenter throughout the United States and abroad. She holds a B.M. in Music Education emphasis on Voice (K-12 Certified) Degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has served as the Arts and Administrative Fellow for The St. Louis Symphony and has served as the Community Engagement Manager for The St. Louis Children’s Choirs. She is the host of the award winning-program Bach and Beyoncé on Classic 107.3 and is a host for the St. Louis Symphony “Live at Powell” broadcast. Ellis is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, National Association of Music Educators, Missouri Alliance for Arts Education, where she is chair of the RIDE (Race, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity) Committee and holds Level 3 Certification from the CME Institute for Choral Teacher Education. She is the wife of Marion Ellis and the mother of Aria, Kendal and Noah Ellis.

###

The Sheldon’s City of Music All-Star Chorus is made possible by the Centene Charitable Foundation and many other generous donors.