



Chris Peimann  
Director of Advancement  
[cpeimann@TheSheldon.org](mailto:cpeimann@TheSheldon.org)  
314.533.9900 ext. 19

Sarah Samples  
Marketing Manager  
[ssamples@TheSheldon.org](mailto:ssamples@TheSheldon.org)

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## **THE SHELTON WELCOMES LAUREL WACYK AS NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon Arts Foundation is pleased to announce that Laurel Wacyk has taken on the role of director of education as of July 25. A Michigan native, Wacyk has worked as an educator, conductor, clinician and presenter across the country, and will now spearhead The Sheldon’s wide-ranging educational programs, including their long-running education concerts series, student ensembles and instrument donation program.

In classrooms and community rehearsal spaces in Michigan, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, Wacyk’s students have ranged in age and ability, but have all grown in passion and skill while exploring a wide variety of musical styles. Wacyk holds degrees from Western Michigan University and Temple University, and has been the recipient of awards including the Robert Page Award for Excellence in Choral Conducting (Temple University), and the Lannom Award for Young Conductors (ACDA).

"Being tasked with developing educational opportunities at The Sheldon is a thrill," says Wacyk. "I have spent much of my career as an educator considering how people connect to the arts. As The Sheldon's director of education, I am excited to create tools and experiences that best allow people to interact on a more personal level with the amazing performing and visual arts programming at The Sheldon and throughout the St. Louis community."

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*Hi-Res photo available upon request.*