



THE
SHELDON
Arts Without Borders

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**SOMI KAKOMA TO PAY TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM MAKEBA ON THE WHITAKER WORLD MUSIC
CONCERTS SERIES AT THE SHELDON**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents **SOMI** on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. This concert is part of the 2022-23 Whitaker World Music Concerts series, marking the 5th year of this popular world music showcase, funded with the generous support of the Whitaker Foundation. Through this popular series, the Whitaker Foundation has allowed The Sheldon to take its commitment to “Arts Without Borders” to the international level, connecting St. Louisans to a broad range of world cultures through music.

Closely mentored by the legendary trumpet player Hugh Masekela, Somi’s live performances have been described by *Jazz Times* magazine as “the earthy gutsiness of Nina Simone blended with the vocal beauty of Dianne Reeves.” Fresh off her triumphant performance as Miriam Makeba in the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis’ production of *Dreaming Zenzile*, vocalist, composer and writer Somi Kakoma, the daughter of Rwandan and Ugandan immigrants, discovered her musical identity traversing the cultural bridge between America and Africa. That sense of discovery continues to guide a career in which she has forged a musical signature. Her latest album, *Zenzile: The Reimagination of Miriam Makeba*, is an all-star tribute to the great “Mama Africa” and a companion project to *Dreaming Zenzile*, Somi’s critically acclaimed original musical. She will pay tribute to Makeba in this special concert performance.

Offering a transatlantic mix of modern jazz, soul, and African pop, Somi “creates an elegant amalgam of the music and bi-continental experiences that have shaped her life” (NPR).

Tickets are \$45 orchestra / \$40 balcony 1 / \$35 balcony 2 / \$15 student, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111 and through The Sheldon’s website at TheSheldon.org. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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