



THE SHELDON
CONCERT HALL & ART GALLERIES

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2013-14 SHELDON SESSIONS OPEN WITH BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN SEPT. 20TH

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon, in partnership with 88.1 KDHX, presents banjoists Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn, September 20 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Opening The Sheldon’s 2013-2014 Sessions Series, Fleck and Washburn have mastered the deceptively intricate art of the duet. Washburn’s beguiling composing, playing and singing, blended with Fleck’s riveting and virtuosic musicianship create music both unique yet familiar. Their performances embrace a diversity almost unthinkable – coming from just two banjos and one voice.

Béla Fleck may be the most prominent banjo player in the world. A 15-time Grammy winner, Fleck has spent decades using the banjo to create music that far outreaches its native musical ground of bluegrass and Americana. He has collaborated with artists such as Chick Corea, Oumou Sangare, Zakir Hussain, Edgar Meyer, Dave Mathews, Earl Scruggs, the Marcus Roberts Trio, the Muwewesu Xylophone Group, and the Cleveland Orchestra for his Banjo Concerto.

Illinois native and Nashville resident Abigail Washburn has taken her banjo far beyond the usual old-timey comfort zone, musically and geographically. An alumnus of Uncle Earl, the powerhouse all-female string band, Washburn’s music resounds with echoes of Appalachia and the tidal wave of emerging Chinese cultural influence. Her most recent disc, *City of Refuge*, adds dashes of electric and percussive flavors as well as an earthy, acoustic muscle that is at the core of Washburn’s sound.

Together, Fleck and Washburn employ the relatively rare 3-finger and clawhammer banjo duet to create an evening of music full of warmth and ingenuity.

Tickets are \$40 orchestra/\$35 balcony, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon’s website at TheSheldon.org, or in person at The Fox Theatre Box Office, 534 N. Grand Blvd. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314.533.9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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