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TROMBONIST WILLIAM CEPEDA AND HIS BAND BRING A UNIQUE BLEND OF JAZZ AND FOLKLORIC MUSIC TO THE SHELDON STAGE

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon and Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis present Afro-Rican trombonist, William Cepeda, and his band, October 18 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Trombonist/bandleader Cepeda promises a mix of jazz and folkloric music with an authentic Puerto Rican band and dancers.

Born and raised in Loiza, the heart of “little Africa” in Puerto Rico, Cepeda is a protégé of the late Dizzy Gillespie and has toured as part of the trumpeter's United Nations Orchestra. Known as a cultural icon of Puerto Rico, he revolutionized the field of Latin music in 1992 with his introduction of Afro-Rican Jazz, an innovative blend of world music, progressive jazz and traditional Afro-Puerto Rican roots and folk music and dance. As a leader, the Grammy-nominated Cepeda has released eight albums and toured internationally, performing at major jazz festivals including Montreux, NorthSea and Tabarka, as well as arts venues and clubs all over the world.

Educated at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, the Conservatory of Music in Puerto Rico, and the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, Cepeda has also received several artist-in-residency awards including the 2002 Meet the Composer three-year New Residencies Program award and more recently at the Akiyoshidai International Art Village in Japan in 2009.

Tickets are $35 orchestra/$30 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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