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**THE SHELDON**  
CONCERT HALL & ART GALLERIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **LEO KOTTKE RETURNS TO THE SHELDON WITH HIS INNOVATIVE GUITAR TECHNIQUE**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents Leo Kottke, Friday, February 6 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Leo Kottke’s powerful guitar playing and his intimate relationship with audiences have made him one of folk music’s favorite live performers. Known for his innovative 12-string guitar technique, Kottke is a member of the *Guitar Player Magazine* Hall of Fame, has earned two Grammy nominations and holds a Doctorate in Music Performance from the Peck School of Music at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

With a career that has spanned more than 25 years, Leo Kottke has composed scores for film soundtracks, children’s shows, and a symphony. He has also released over 20 LPs, some of which (like *Great Big Boy*) included his craggy baritone, reminiscent of folk singer Tom Waits or radio personality and writer Garrison Keillor.

Born in Athens, Georgia, and raised in 12 different states, Leo Kottke absorbed a variety of musical influences as a child, playing both violin and trombone, before finding the guitar at age 11. When his career blossomed with the folk revival of the 1960s and 1970s, Kottke earned the early title of “virtuoso,” with *Rolling Stone* describing him as “so good that he didn’t need a band.” Kottke’s 1971 major-label debut with Capitol Records positioned him in the singer/songwriter vein, despite his own wish to remain an instrumental performer. Records such as 1972’s *Greenhouse* and 1973’s live *My Feet Are Smiling* and *Ice Water* found him branching out with guest musicians and honing his guitar technique. Folk great Pete Seeger, who (along with John Fahey) was one of Kottke’s first influences, called the young guitar player “the best twelve-string guitarist [he has] ever heard.” More recently, Kottke’s collaborations with Phish bassist Mike Gordon, and Prince’s producer David Z., have introduced him to a new, younger audience.

Tickets are limited! \$45 orchestra/\$40 balcony, and are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon’s website at [TheSheldon.org](http://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](http://TheSheldon.org).

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