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The Sheldon Arts Foundation Announces Donation of Major World Instrument Collection

- Exhibition of Selected Instruments to Open February 6 -

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Sheldon Arts Foundation is pleased to announce that the Hartenberger World Music Collection, a compilation of over 2,500 musical instruments from around the world, has been donated to The Sheldon by Dr. Aurelia and Jeff Hartenberger. The collection, with an estimated value of over \$2 million, features African, Asian, European, Oceanic, Middle Eastern and Central, South and North American instruments, from early pre-Columbian times to the present day.

"The Sheldon is a fabulous cultural center for both music and the visual arts. I am excited and honored to contribute to their vision that celebrates music - its history, richness and cultural diversity," says Dr. Hartenberger, an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, Webster University and Maryville University. "I know we, and generations to come, will all be beneficiaries of this endeavor."

Dr. Hartenberger gathered the collection over many years and it features classical, jazz, folk, sacred and ceremonial, and indigenous instruments, some of which are rare or one-of-a-kind examples. Photos of over 180 instruments in the collection are featured in the prestigious *New Grove Dictionary of Music*. Others, collected for educational purposes, will be used in Sheldon education programs to help young people appreciate the music and traditions of cultures throughout the world. The collection will be stored offsite in a facility generously made available by MiTek Industries through Dick Marriott, Sheldon Board Member and President of MiTek USA.

Included are European and American classical-music instruments, American jazz instruments, and a large collection of instruments from Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Middle East and the Americas. The Classical Music and American Jazz Instruments Collections consist of over 800 instruments dating from the late 1700s to the mid-1900s, spanning the historical development of brass, woodwind and fretted string instruments. A few of these have been identified as the oldest known examples, or as only one of a few in existence. These include an H.N. White King Recording Bass; an Edward Light English harp-lute, c.1810; an A.J. Rich experimental 2-Valve Cornopean c.1820 (before three valves were added); an E. G. Wright 10-Keyed Bugle c.1843-1846 (Elbridge G. Wright was considered the foremost US maker of keyed bugles); a Baudouin serpent horn, Paris, 1815; and a highly carved mahogany upright Giraffe grand piano, one of only 50 made by the Cable Company of Chicago in 1897 (no others are known to still exist).

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Experimental jazz instruments include rare hybrid instruments like the double bell Jazzophon, the Saxotrumpet, and a soprano slide saxophone by Reiffel & Husted. In addition, there are instruments owned and played by some of America's great jazz musicians, including Clark Terry, Oliver Lake, Hamiett Bluiett, Artie Shaw, Eddie Daniels and many others.

The African instrument collection contains over 700 rare instruments and supplemental artifacts from the 19th and 20th centuries, including instruments from the Jean-Pierre Hallet estate, making this one of the most noteworthy and largest private African instrument collections in the United States. Included is a collection of bronze bells, a rare Egungun costume, a late 19th-early 20th century Bakongo divinity xylophone and a pair of early 20th century Bamileke wooden shrine gongs. The Native American instrument collection consists of more than 300 artifacts from the late 19th and early-to-mid 20th centuries, representing each of the eight native cultural regions of North America.

The Oceanic instruments collection contains field-collected traditional instruments of New Zealand, New Guinea and Hawaii. The Maori (New Zealand) collection is one of only two known in the United States and contains instruments dating back more than 100 years. Important pieces include an Asmat drum (Tifa) from West Papua (Irian Jaya), and a large Ramu Drum (slit gong) called a "Garamut" from the Angoram village, Lower Sepik, Papua New Guinea.

The Asian Instruments Collection, numbering over 150 instruments, contains rare artifacts that expert Randy Raine-Reusch, former Director of Acquisitions for The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), Phoenix, identified as some of the rarest known, including a vintage *sanshin*, an Okinawan musical instrument and precursor of the Japanese *shamisen*, and an 1850 Chinese porcelain *Gu Zheng*.

The Latin-American instrument collection contains Pre-Columbian instruments, with the majority of the collection being field-collected Mayan, Aztec, Mestizo and Bolivian instruments from Central and South America. Highlights include an Olmec whistling maskette made from jade, c. 1100-500 B.C.E.; a zoomorphic drum from the Nicoya Peninsula of Costa Rica, c. 800 - 1200 C.E.; and a Veracruz head-form pottery whistle, c. 600-900 C.E.

"We are so pleased that the Hartenbergers have chosen The Sheldon to be the home of this beautifully-curated collection of musical instruments, which are both important and historical cultural artifacts and beautiful works of art in their own right," says Sheldon Art Galleries Director, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales. "The Hartenberger World Music Instrument Collection was put together with education in mind, and will complement our mission to exhibit and present programs of the highest quality, diversity and educational impact. The collection reflects the rich mosaic of the diverse peoples of the St. Louis region and the United States, and will make The Sheldon a center for the study of world cultures through music and their related visual arts. We hope to continue to selectively build the collection through donations, with the help and advice of Dr. Hartenberger and a gallery board committee."

MORE...

Sheldon Art Galleries/ *Hartenberger World Instrument Collection Donation cont'd.*
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Portions of the collection have been featured in exhibitions at The Sheldon since 2001 and, going forward, will be shown in rotating exhibits curated by Dr. Hartenberger. It is the goal of The Sheldon to eventually create a world music museum as part of an expanded Sheldon Art Galleries.

The Sheldon will celebrate this major donation with ***A World of Music: Africa, Asia and Latin America ~ Instruments from the Hartenberger World Music Collection***, opening February 6 in the Gallery of Music, with complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres from 5-7 p.m. Galleries will be open until 9 p.m. that evening for First Fridays in Grand Center. Curated by Dr. Aurelia Hartenberger, this exhibition explores musical instrument artistry and artifacts from Africa, Asia and Central and South America. Highlights of the collection include an eight and one-half octave Marimba from REB - Guatemala, Chimú whistling bottle from 1000 C.E., a finely inlaid Bandurria, a Shoko from the Coronation of the Emperor Yoshihito of Japan, and a Sudanese Tom lyre, among other amazing and exotic instruments.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries, located in Grand Center, St. Louis' arts and cultural district, exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, music, and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

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Online Instrument Database: <http://hwmconline.com/>

Selected images available [here](#).

For more information or additional images, please contact Chris Peimann, Director of Marketing and Publicity, at 314-533-9900 or cpeimann@thesheldon.org.