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### **LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO RETURNS TO THE SHELDON**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Sunday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Ladysmith Black Mambazo, the most prominent a cappella vocal group from South Africa, have been messengers of “Peace, Love and Harmony” for over fifty years.

Led by Joseph Shabalala, the group rose to prominence after Paul Simon incorporated their rich tenor into his famous album *Graceland*. A year later, in 1988, their first worldwide release, *Shaka Zulu*, won a Grammy Award for Best Folk Recording. Since then, the group has been awarded two more Grammy Awards for *Raise Your Spirit Higher* (2004) and *Ilembe* (2009) and have been nominated a total of fifteen times. Ladysmith Black Mambazo has worked with many artists including Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, Sarah McLachlan, Josh Groban, Emmylou Harris and more. A film documentary titled *On Tip Toe: Gentle Steps to Freedom*, the story of Ladysmith Black Mambazo, was nominated for an Academy Award in 2001. They have also appeared on Broadway and have been nominated for Tony Awards and have won a Drama Desk Award.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo was bestowed with the title of “South African Cultural Ambassadors to the World” by Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa. He asked the group to join him on his trip to Oslo, Norway in 1993, when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The group was also invited to perform at the celebration when Mandela was inaugurated president. They feel a strong connection to what Mandela embraced and upon his passing, the group vowed that the legacy he left for the world will always resonate in their souls.

In 2014, Ladysmith Black Mambazo released their newest CD, *Always With Us*. This collection of songs by Nellie Shabalala, Joseph’s late wife, was recorded with her church choir in 2001.

Tickets are \$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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