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**City of Music Celebrates St. Louis' Influence on American Music**

The Two-Hour Nine Network Special Includes Performances by St. Louisans Peter Martin, Denise Thimes, Kim Massie, Billy Peek and More

St. Louis, MO—February 18, 2015—The Nine Network explores the legacy and contributions of St. Louis to America's music heritage in *City of Music*, a two-hour special broadcast in two parts: on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. on Nine PBS.

*City of Music* weaves historic narrative and interviews with performances recorded live at the Sheldon Concert Hall in fall 2014 with some of St. Louis' top musicians including Peter Martin, Denise Thimes, Kim Massie, Billy Peek and the St. Louis Ragtimers. Each performance illustrates a musical genre—such as ragtime, jazz, blues, R&B, rock 'n' roll, alt country, hip hop and classical music—sometimes as a straight-up tribute, and sometimes as a modern interpretation or cross-genre fusion. Singer and recording artist Brian Owens hosts the special.

The program features the premiere of three original compositions performed by the acclaimed ensemble Alarm Will Sound: "St. Louis Reds," an homage to W.C. Handy's iconic "St. Louis Blues" by Stefan Freund of Alarm Will Sound; "con/influences," also by Freund, a wide-ranging celebration of music in St. Louis; and "Miles-Re-Vision," a work by pianist Peter Martin inspired by the music of Miles Davis and the legacy of St. Louis artists and composers over the years.

Among the highlights in *City of Music's* two hours of music history are pianist John Orfe playing a medley of Scott Joplin rags, Denise Thimes singing "St. Louis Blues," Two Times True and trumpeter Randy Holmes playing Miles Davis' "Dig," Kim Massie belting an R&B version of Tina Turner's "What's Love Got to Do With It" and "Proud Mary," Billy Peek rocking out to Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode," and host Brian Owens and Peter Martin uniting to pay tribute to the late Donny Hathaway's cover of Carole King's "You've Got a Friend."

In interviews, Larry Morris talks about "hip hop fusion" with his group iLLPHONiCS; St. Louis Symphony Music Director David Robertson discusses the symphony's deep roots in the city and versatile talents of its orchestra members; General Director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis Timothy O'Leary explains how the company draws a worldwide audience for annual opera presentations; and Jazz St. Louis President and CEO Gene Dobbs Bradford reflects on collaborations with other music institutions.

*City of Music* is a Nine Network of Public Media production in collaboration with the Sheldon Concert Hall, produced by Patrick Murphy, vice president of production for the Nine Network, with creative consultant Paul Reuter, executive director of the Sheldon Concert Hall, with the support of the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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