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## "SHELDON CLASSICS" SERIES OPENS WITH BJORN RANHEIM, SHAWN WEIL AND THE 442S

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents with Bjorn Ranheim, Shawn Weil and Friends on The Sheldon Classics series, Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Cellist Bjorn Ranheim and violinist Shawn Weil, members of the St. Louis Symphony and genre-defying acoustic quartet, The 442s, present an eclectic program in collaboration with musical friends. The program includes virtuosic duos by Kodály and Stefan Freund, Schoenfield's sparkling "Café Music" with pianist Peter Henderson, and a new work by composer Adam Maness for The 442s and vocalist Brian Owens. Also featured will be the premiere of a commissioned piece by University of Missouri-Columbia student Erin Hoerchler.

Cellist **Bjorn Ranheim**, who was appointed to the St. Louis Symphony (SLSO) in 2005, also holds the principal chair of the Colorado Music Festival in Boulder, Colorado, and is a member of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony in Idaho. He has performed and toured with the orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cleveland and Detroit, and has held principal and assistant principal cello positions with the New World Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra and Aspen Festival Orchestra. Ranheim is highly visible throughout the St. Louis region, presenting recitals, educational programs, and chamber music performances. He is a member of the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis and Washington University's Eliot Piano Trio with St. Louis Symphony Concertmaster David Halen, and pianist Seth Carlin.

A native of Chicago, **Shawn Weil** was appointed to the St. Louis Symphony in April 2005. Weil is a violinist with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony and, for four seasons, was co-concertmaster of the New World Symphony. During his tenure at the New World Symphony, he was invited to represent the institution in chamber music performances domestically in Manhattan and the Hamptons, and internationally in Prague, Rome and Monte Carlo. He has collaborated with Michael Tilson Thomas, David Robertson, Alasdair Neale and the Miami String Quartet. An active educator and mentor, Weil is on the violin faculty of Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina, and is frequently involved with the Education and Community Partnership Program of the SLSO.

Special guests **The 442s** are an acoustic instrumental quartet named for the modern standard tuning of 442 Hertz. The group features Bjorn Ranheim and Shawn Weil, along with Sydney Rodway on bass and multi-instrumentalist Adam Maness, who brings the group together with innovative and inspired compositions. This unique collaboration, formed in the spring of 2012, explores the boundaries of jazz, classical, folk and rock music.

Tickets are \$30 orchestra/\$25 balcony/\$15 student, 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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