

Chris Peimann  
Director of Marketing and Publicity  
[cpeimann@TheSheldon.org](mailto:cpeimann@TheSheldon.org)  
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 19

Sarah Samples  
Marketing and Publicity Coordinator  
[ssamples@TheSheldon.org](mailto:ssamples@TheSheldon.org)  
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 21



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2016

## GRAMMY-WINNING PIANIST BILLY CHILDS PAYS HOMAGE TO LAURA NYRO

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents **Billy Childs’ Map to the Treasure, “Reimagining Laura Nyro,”** Saturday, January 30 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Grammy-winning pianist and composer Billy Childs pays homage to singer-songwriter Laura Nyro, a prolific composer whose jazz, gospel and soul-inspired melodies and socially-conscious lyrics continue to resonate today. In this heartfelt program, Childs is joined by vocalists Becca Stevens and Alicia Olatuja, performing lush, sophisticated arrangements of hits and lesser-known gems by the 2012 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee who passed away in 1997 at the age of 49.

Billy Childs was born in Los Angeles, where he immersed himself in jazz and classical music at a young age. Starting at 6 years old, he began performing publicly, drawing on his early influences of Herbie Hancock, Keith Emerson and Chick Corea. After a stint with Freddie Hubbard, Childs embarked on a performing and recording tour, developing his own style in both jazz and classical genres. His internationally acclaimed album, *Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro*, won the 2015 Grammy for Best Arrangement, Vocals and Instruments, and was nominated for Best Jazz Vocal Album. In addition to his performance career, Childs has also worked as a composer of orchestral and chamber music with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The Kronos Quartet and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

**Becca Stevens** is an American jazz and folk singer who has worked both as a soloist and a collaborator with many artists including Eric Harland and José James. The multi-talented artist released her newest album, *Perfect Animal*, in April this year, receiving critical acclaim.

A St. Louis native, **Alicia Olatuja** is a Vocal Performance graduate of the Manhattan School of Music Master’s program. She performs often as a soloist with the Juilliard Jazz ensemble, and has sung with various recording artists such as Chaka Khan and Bebe Winans. Olatuja recently released her solo debut album, *Timeless*, on which she is joined by Grammy-Award winner Christian McBride.

Tickets are \$40 orchestra/\$35 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 a VIP concert experience, All-Access tickets are available by calling 314-533-9900, ext. 17. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

###

*Sponsored by Edward Jones | Welcomed by WSIE 88.7 The Jazz Station*

3648 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD | ST. LOUIS, MO | 63108 | 314.533.9900 | THESHELDON.ORG