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ALARM WILL SOUND RETURNS TO THE SHELDON WITH WORKS BY GYÖRGY LIGETI

The Sheldon presents Alarm Will Sound with special guest Ghost Ice, Friday, February 12 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. As part of their fourth “St. Louis Season,” the cutting-edge chamber ensemble will perform works by avant-garde Hungarian composer György Ligeti. Born in Hungary in 1923, Ligeti’s artistic breakthrough occurred after his escape to the West in the late 1950s. Ligeti’s hugely influential electronic and orchestral works, recognizable for their dense use of polyphony, earned the admiration of visionaries including Stanley Kubrick, who included excerpts of several Ligeti pieces in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, among other films.

Alarm Will Sound will honor Ligeti by performing his Chamber Concerto, Piano Concerto (John Orfe, soloist) and other pieces in the context of his life story, weaving music and text to push the boundaries of what a concert can be. Ghost Ice (Jeremy Kannapell), an experimental electronic artist and fixture on the St. Louis music scene, will open the show.

Since coming together in 2001, the 20-member Alarm Will Sound ensemble has approached contemporary music in the spirit of curiosity and fearlessness. Their repertoire ranges from the arch-modernist to the pop-influenced, but the experience is broader than the music itself. By incorporating images, text, theatrical elements and a sense of play, they inspire new questions in their listeners and encourage the search for new answers.

Alarm Will Sound’s performances in St. Louis are part of a regional effort that began in 2010 when the group became the resident ensemble at the Mizzou International Composers Festival in Columbia, MO (MICF). Through their continuing involvement with the MICF, they forged a relationship with the festival’s sponsors, philanthropist Jeanne Sinquefield and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation, which led to the foundation’s sponsorship of the group’s performances in Columbia and St. Louis.

Tickets for Alarm Will Sound on February 12 are \$20 general admission. Call MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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