

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

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**“SHELDON CLASSICS” SERIES WELCOMES PIANIST PETER HENDERSON,  
ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY PRINCIPALS JELENA DIRKS AND ANDREW CUNEO**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents Peter Henderson and members of the St. Louis Symphony on The Sheldon Classics series, Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Pianist Peter Henderson is joined by St. Louis Symphony principals Jelena Dirks, oboe, and Andrew Cuneo, bassoon, for “French Connection,” featuring Poulenc’s Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano and Faure’s Piano Trio, Op. 120. Henderson will also perform solo piano works by Ravel. Also featured will be the premiere of the commissioned piece “It Was There All Along” for bassoon and piano, by University of Missouri-Columbia student Trey Makler.

A versatile pianist, **Peter Henderson** is active as a performer in solo, chamber and orchestral settings. Henderson is currently Associate Professor of Music and Artist in Residence at Maryville University, where he has served on the faculty since fall 2005. He performs frequently as an ensemble keyboardist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and made his debut as a subscription-concert soloist there in January 2008. Henderson has been an orchestral and chamber keyboardist with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony since its 2004 season, and has coached chamber music ensembles at the week-long SoCal Chamber Music Workshop since 2001. Henderson holds a Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University-Bloomington.

**Jelena Dirks** was appointed to the position of Principal Oboe of the St. Louis Symphony in December of 2013. She is on the faculty of DePaul University where she teaches both piano and oboe, and is the woodwind coordinator. Dirks has performed with many major musical groups in Chicago, including Lyric Opera, the Chicago Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Having graduated Summa Cum Laude from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, Dirks went on to receive dual Masters Degrees in Piano and Oboe Performance from the University of Michigan.

**Andrew Cuneo** is the Principal Bassoon with the St. Louis Symphony. Prior to his appointment in St. Louis, he was Principal Bassoon of the Louisville Orchestra and the Sarasota Opera. In addition, he has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Milwaukee, Boston and Houston symphonies, as well as the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Houston Grand Opera. He has played with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony since 2011, and has been a fellow at several summer festivals, including Tanglewood, the Music Academy of the West and the Youth Orchestra of the Americas. Andrew Cuneo is a former student of Bernard Garfield and Daniel Matsukawa at the Curtis Institute of Music and Benjamin Kamins at Rice University.

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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