



THE SHELDON

CONCERT HALL & ART GALLERIES

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THE FRIENDS OF THE SHELDON PRESENT MAVIS STAPLES TO BENEFIT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

ST. LOUIS – The Friends of The Sheldon present Mavis Staples, Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 8 p.m. Soul and gospel legend Mavis Staples possesses one of the most recognizable and treasured voices in contemporary music. Now a 40-year veteran of the music scene, a Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame inductee, a Grammy winner and one of VH1’s “100 Greatest Women of Rock and Roll,” Staples is responsible for blazing a rhythm & blues trail while never relinquishing her gospel roots. Her importance in both the music world and as a driving force of social change makes her a true icon.

Mavis Staples began her career with her family group in 1950, initially singing locally at churches and appearing on a weekly radio show. When she graduated high school in 1957, The Staple Singers took their music on the road. Led by family patriarch Roebuck “Pops” Staples on guitar and including the voices of Mavis and her siblings, the Staples were called “God’s Greatest Hitmakers.” With her voice and Pops’ songs, the Staples evolved from an enormously popular gospel group to become the most spectacular and influential spiritually-based group in America. By the mid-1960s, The Staple Singers, inspired by Pops’ close friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became the spiritual and musical voice of the civil rights movement.

Mavis Staples recorded her first solo album, *Mavis Staples*, for the famed Stax label in 1969. After another Stax release, *Only For the Lonely*, in 1970, she released a soundtrack album, *A Piece of the Action*, on Curtis Mayfield’s Curtom label. A 1984 album preceded two albums under the direction of Prince – 1989’s *Time Waits For No One*, followed by 1993’s *The Voice*, which *People* magazine named to its Top Ten Albums of 1993. During her career, Staples has appeared in many films and television shows, including *The Last Waltz*, *Graffiti Bridge*, *Wattstax*, *New York Undercover*, *Soul Train* and *Soul to Soul*. Her voice has been sampled by some of today’s biggest selling hip-hop artists, including Salt ‘N’ Pepa, Ice Cube and Ludacris, and she has recorded with a wide variety of musicians, from her close friend Bob Dylan, with whom she was nominated for a 2003 Grammy Award in the Best Pop Collaboration With Vocals category for their duet on “Gotta Change My Way Of Thinking,” to The Band, Ray Charles, George Jones, Natalie Merchant, Delbert McClinton and many others.

MORE....

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Now in her seventh decade, with the release of her new album *Livin' on a High Note*, she is only gaining momentum. Produced by M. Ward with songs by Neko Case, Justin Vernon, Nick Cave, Ben Harper, Tune-Yards, Aloe Blacc and others, the album serves as a summation and furtherance of her illustrious career. Refusing to fade away, she continues to tour incessantly, remaining as vital, engaged and true as always.

Patron tickets are \$150, and include a pre-concert reception, complimentary parking, preferred seating and a tax-deduction. Call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900. Proceeds from this special event benefit Sheldon educational programs, which serve over 25,000 St. Louis-area students each year.

Concert-only tickets and are \$50 orch 1 / \$45 orch 2 / \$40 balc 1 / \$35 balc 2. Call MetroTix at 314-534-1111 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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