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CHUCHO VALDÉS-JOE LOVANO QUINTET COME TOGETHER ON THE SHELDON STAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon and the Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis present **Chucho Valdés-Joe Lovano Quintet**, Saturday, November 12, 2016 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Two legendary artists who exemplify the standards for creativity and exploration at the forefront of artistic expression, come together for a first-time collaboration in the Chucho Valdés-Joe Lovano Quintet. Jazz pianist Chucho Valdés has been a key figure in the evolution of Afro-Cuban jazz for the past 50 years, while saxophonist Joe Lovano has recorded more albums on the famed Blue Note Records than any other artist.

Born in Quivicán, Province Havana, Cuba in 1941, Valdés, began playing piano at the age of 3, following in the footsteps of his father, the legendary Bébo Valdés. Valdés made his debut with the Sabor De Cuba Orchestra at the age of 18, where he accompanied many important singers of the day including Rolando Laserie and Fernanco Alvarez. He made his breakthrough into the jazz mainstream with the formation of Irakere, an explosive ensemble that changed the face of Cuban music in the second half of the 20th century. Performing a mixture of jazz, rock, classical and traditional Cuban music, Grammy-winning Irakere performed and recorded together for over 25 years. Valdés has also forged a stellar solo career, performing with everyone from Dizzy Gillespie, Max Roach and Wynton Marsalis to Taj Mahal, Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea.

Joe Lovano started playing alto saxophone as a child, taught by his father. In his youth, Lovano would hear many of the prominent jazz artists who passed through town, including Dizzy Gillespie, James Moody, Sonny Stitt and Rahsaan Roland Kirk. Lovano began playing in jam sessions around Cleveland while still in his teens. Although thoroughly steeped in bebop, he also developed an interest in the jazz experimentalism of the 1960s, listening to such musicians as John Coltrane, Jimmy Giuffre and Ornette Coleman. Lovano has worked with Elvin Jones, Carla Bley, Lee Konitz, Charlie Haden and Bob Brookmeyer, and joined drummer Paul Motian's band in 1981, while playing with guitarist John Scofield's quartet. Lovano began as a bandleader for Blue Note in the '90s, and continued doing so throughout that decade and into the next, recording in a variety of contexts ranging from trios to larger woodwind and brass ensembles. Since then, Lovano has split his time in the studio between releasing original recordings and albums reinterpreting the work of artists who have influenced him.

MORE...

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Sheldon Concert Hall / *Chucho Valdés-Joe Lovano Quintet*
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Single tickets are \$45 orchestra/\$40 balcony 1/\$30 balcony 2/\$15 student. Tickets are on sale now through MetroTix at 314-534-1111, through The Sheldon's website at 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.

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Co-presented with the Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis
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