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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2017



**THE SHELDON ART GALLERIES CONTINUES TO SHOWCASE ITS HARTENBERGER
WORLD MUSIC COLLECTION WITH “SPECTACULAR STRINGS” EXHIBIT**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *The World of Spectacular Strings*, October 6, 2017 – April 28, 2018 in the Gallery of Music. **An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, October 6 from 5 – 7 p.m.** and the galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries’ website at TheSheldon.org.

Gallery Talk: Tuesday, December 12 at 6 p.m. Exhibit curator Dr. Aurelia Hartenberger takes participants on a journey through the history of stringed instruments. Admission free, but reservations are required. Contact Paula Lincoln at plincoln@thesheldon.org or 314-533-9900 x37.



Drawn from The Sheldon’s Hartenberger World Music Collection and curated by Dr. Aurelia Hartenberger, donor of over 2,600 world musical instruments to The Sheldon in 2014, this exhibit features over 100 unique and fascinating stringed instruments from 500 years of human civilization.

Over the centuries, stringed instruments have evolved from simple sound tools to technological wonders. The exhibit introduces visitors of all ages to instruments that range from historical examples made by folk and classical master-makers, to new electronic inventions.

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The first room will contain instruments from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Here, highlights include a *n'gombi* made by the Bamana people, a beaded *keissa* lyre from the Sudan, and a rare *qanbus*, which originated in Yemen. Recently donated Asian instruments include a Chinese *yang chin*, a spectacular Burmese *saung gauk* and a beautiful Vietnamese *dan tyba*.

The second room will feature classical parlor string instruments and folk fiddles from Europe and the United States. Instruments from the United States include a rare folk-art violin and double bass made from matchsticks, and a harpsichord owned by former St. Louis resident, comedienne Phyllis Diller. European highlights include a Gothic-style floor harp, a unique and decorative “pochette” (pocket) violin, an exquisite decorative 19th century French *faïence* violin, a Greek *bouzouki*, a Ukrainian *bandura* and a Norwegian *hardanger* among many others, all of which speak to the cultural heritage of their native lands.

The third room will include a wide range of instruments from South and North America. South American instruments include a Bolivian *charango*, a Peruvian *arpa domingacha* and a Mexican *chitarra*. Folk music enthusiasts will enjoy a stunning group of harp guitars; and rock, jazz and country fans will enjoy a collection of rare and unusual guitars like a Gibson signed by B.B. King, special edition KISS logo “axe” and “broken mirror” guitars, as well as a Bugs Bunny electric guitar once owned by the country music star Marty Stuart. Children and adults alike will love the Mickey Mouse “Mousegetar” and Gene Autry cowboy guitars popular in the 1950s.

The third room will also host an interactive touch table, and video introductions to selected instruments throughout the exhibit by Dr. Hartenberger will further illuminate the history of these beautiful stringed instruments from around the world.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, music art and history and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: Soprano Lute (pre-mandolin), ca. 1500s-1600s, Maker Unknown, Castello Sforzesco, Milan, ivory, ebony, mother-of-pearl, wood, 22 H x 7.5 W x 5 D inches. The Sheldon Art Galleries, Hartenberger World Music Collection of Historical Instruments. Gift of Dr. Aurelia & Jeff Hartenberger, Karrie Bopp, Jaclyn Hartenberger and Kevin Hartenberger WE-CHLT-38.