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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2018



TOP TROMBONIST DELFEAYO MARSALIS MAKES DEBUT ON SHELDON JAZZ SERIES

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents **Delfeayo Marsalis and The Uptown Jazz Orchestra**, Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Delfeayo Marsalis is one of the most respected trombonists in jazz today. Known for his “technical excellence, inventive mind and frequent touches of humor...” (*Los Angeles Times*), he and his band perform songs that combine spontaneous arrangements with a New Orleans-style second line groove, bringing old school jazz traditions into the modern era.

As a composer and arranger, Delfeayo Marsalis has always shown a flair for the dramatic. His debut CD, *Pontius Pilate’s Decision* (1992), was inspired by biblical tales, and 2010’s stunning *Sweet Thunder* gives the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn suite “Such Sweet Thunder” a modern-day makeover. As a performer, the trombonist gained valuable experience touring with such luminaries as Ray Charles, Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers and pianist Abdullah Ibrahim. In January 2011, Delfeayo and the Marsalis family earned the nation’s highest jazz honor – a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Award.

Marsalis has also long been involved in work as an educator. To inspire New Orleans’ youth through arts education, he founded the Uptown Music Theatre in 2000 and has implemented its Kidstown After School program in three New Orleans grammar schools. Marsalis released *Live at Jazz Fest 2011* with The Uptown Jazz Orchestra, and in 2014, he took the group to Africa to perform at the Standard Bank Joy of Jazz event. In addition, he has composed over 80 songs that help introduce kids to jazz through musical theatre and has reached over 5,000 students nationally with his “Swinging with the Cool School” jazz workshops.

Single tickets are \$40 orchestra/\$35 balcony/\$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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