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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PIANIST ABDULLAH IBRAHIM TELLS THE STORY OF THE JAZZ EPISTLES

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents **Abdullah Ibrahim & Ekaya, “Jazz Epistles - The Story in Concert,”** Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. This historic concert tells the story of The Jazz Epistles, one of South Africa’s most acclaimed and influential jazz ensembles, and crusaders for the anti-apartheid movement. Abdullah Ibrahim (formerly known as Dollar Brand) and his Ekaya ensemble, featuring trumpeter Freddie Hendrix, reimagine their powerful music for a new generation. *Hugh Masekela, originally scheduled to be part of this program, passed away earlier this year after a long battle with prostate cancer.*

Pianist **Abdullah Ibrahim** heard the call of modern jazz in the late 1950s and founded South Africa’s pioneering Jazz Epistles, a hard bop ensemble modeled on Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers. Exposed to a variety of music as a youngster, including traditional African music, religious songs and jazz, Ibrahim began studying piano at the age of 7. He had his professional debut at 15, playing and later recording with local groups such as the Tuxedo Slickers. He was in the forefront of bebop with a Cape Town flavor and 1958 saw the formation of the Dollar Brand Trio. His groundbreaking septet, the Jazz Epistles, with saxophonist Kippie Moeketsi, trumpeter Hugh Masekela, trombonist Jonas Gwanga, bassist Johnny Gertze and drummer Makaya Ntshoko, recorded the first jazz album by South African musicians.

**Freddie Hendrix** has become one of the most in demand trumpeters in jazz, and beyond. An accomplished composer, arranger and educator, the New Jersey native’s skill and versatility has resulted in him working with a wide array of performers that range from the Count Basie Orchestra and The Christian McBride Big Band, to Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder and Alicia Keys. A product of the esteemed jazz program at William Paterson University, with a master’s in Jazz Studies and Performance from New Jersey City University, Hendrix also shares his knowledge and passion for music by serving as a faculty member at the Hartt School of Music at The University of Hartford (CT), The New School in New York and Jazz House Kids, in Montclair, New Jersey.

Single tickets are \$45 orchestra/\$40 balcony/\$15 student. Tickets 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 a VIP concert experience, All-Access tickets are available by calling 314-533-9900, ext. 14. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

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