



**THE SHELDON**  
CONCERT HALL & ART GALLERIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2013

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ST. LOUIS FOLK & ROOTS FESTIVAL OPENS WITH  
THE HILLBENDERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS REBECCA LOEBE, AND BLUE CANYON BOYS**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon and 88.1 KDHX present the dynamic bluegrass quintet, the HillBenders, September 27 at 8 p.m. in The Sheldon Ballroom. Part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Louis Folk & Roots Festival, the HillBenders are winners of the Telluride Bluegrass Band Competition in 2009 and are favorites on the bluegrass festival scene with their own brand of acoustic fusion. The band is currently on their 2013 Half Moon Harvest Tour that includes over 15 dates and will span nine states. “Our music appeals to anyone that can enjoy a fun performance. We share a passion for the music, a passion to perform,” says guitarist Jim Rea.

Hailing from Springfield, MO, the HillBenders are known for their high-octane shows, tight harmonies and stunning instrumental prowess. Recently signed to Nashville-based roots music company the Compass Records Group, the HillBenders include lead singer and mandolinist Nolan Lawrence with Jim Rea and his cousin Gary Rea on guitar and bass respectively, banjoist Mark Cassidy and Dobroist Chad “Gravy Boat” Graves. “Bluegrass is where we found our voice as performers, so we feel like we owe a lot to it. We have one foot in bluegrass all the time while the other is reaching out and exploring our interests in rock and roll, jazz, funk and Americana,” says Chad.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, and 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 more information, call The Sheldon at 314.533.9900 or visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

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*Presented in partnership with 88.1 KDHX  
Support provided by Arts & Education Council, Missouri Arts Council,  
the Regional Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts*