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HABIB KOITÉ AND RAUL MIDÓN PERFORM DUAL HEADLINING SHOW AT THE SHELDON

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents **Habib Koité and Raul Midón, Friday, February 28 at 8 p.m.** in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. This inspired cross-genre pairing unites Malian superstar **Habib Koité** with American singer/songwriter **Raul Midón**. Masters of soulful expression, the two musicians join forces to offer audiences an authentic, inspired performance.

With more than 250,000 albums sold around the globe, and nearly a thousand concerts on some of the world's most prestigious stages, **Habib Koité** is one of Africa's most beloved and popular musicians. Called "Mali's biggest pop star" by *Rolling Stone* and compared to Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughn by musicians such as Bonnie Raitt, few African artists have received comparable sales and media exposure. Koité has gained a strong fan base by integrating the rock and folk sounds of the Western world, without watering down his cherished Malian roots. He has been featured in the United States on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, WXPN's *World Café*, PRI's *The World*, the House of Blues Radio Hour *Mali to Memphis* special, prestigious international programs such as CNN *WorldBeat*, and in June 2007 was the subject of a two-page photo spread in *Vanity Fair* magazine.

Singer-songwriter and guitarist **Raul Midón** is a one-man band who offers a fresh fusion of old-school soul, Latin jazz and folk-pop. He began his solo career after touring and recording with contemporary pop stars Shakira and Enrique Iglesias. As a soloist, he combines phenomenal guitar chops, deftly executed vocal mouth trumpet, and an impassioned voice likened to that of Donny Hathaway. Midón has collaborated with artists such as Herbie Hancock and Stevie Wonder, and contributed to recordings by Jason Mraz and Queen Latifah. Blind since infancy, Midón is a rare musical force who reminds us how strong the connection between man and music can be. He acts as producer-engineer on his forthcoming album, using special computer software for the blind, enabling him to engineer sessions in his home studio.

Tickets are \$40 orchestra/\$35 balcony, and 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 more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit TheSheldon.org.

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