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SPOKFREVO ORQUESTRA BRINGS THE SOUNDS OF BRAZIL TO THE SHELDON

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents SpokFrevo Orquestra, Sunday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Born out of the carnivals of Pernambuco, Brazil, *frevo* is a swinging musical tradition known for driving rhythms, improvisation and limitless energy! Led by “Maestro Spok,” the SpokFrevo Orquestra is a true big band that introduces this uniquely infectious art form to the world. The band, composed of 18 musicians, is considered one of the most important frevo groups in the city of Recife. Spok has been called the new frevo ambassador for his contributions to the development and spread of the frevo rhythm.

In 1996, Maestro Spok founded Banda Pernambucana, which played with Antonio Nóbrega around the world. Some years later, this group was named Orquestra de Frevo do Recife, becoming the SpokFrevo Orquestra in 2004. In its initial years, the group played frevo songs as they were originally composed. However, bit by bit, the big band incorporated jazz influences, emphasizing solo improvisation and introducing rhythmic innovations. While traditional frevo musicians did not fully embrace this style, the fusion of jazz and frevo helped spread the popularity of the SpokFrevo Orquestra locally and around the world.

SpokFrevo Orquestra has performed in many countries, including Portugal, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, France and Austria, spreading the music of Pernambuco, with a repertoire that includes compositions by Spok as well as Sivuca, Dori Caymmi and many other frevo composers. Ambassadors for this unique musical language, SpokFrevo makes it their mission to introduce this genre to a wider audience.

Tickets are \$35 orchestra/\$30 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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