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**THE MUSIC OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA FEATURED ON "SHELDON CLASSICS" SERIES  
WITH VIOLINIST DAVID HALEN AND GUITARIST KIRK HANSER**

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon presents “Sheldon Classics: Central and South America” featuring St. Louis Symphony concertmaster David Halen and guitarist Kirk Hanser, Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Featured will be music by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos and Argentinian composers Maximo Diego Pujol and Astor Piazzolla. Also featured will be the premiere of a commissioned piece, “Looking for the Clave” by José Martinez, made possible by the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation and the Mizzou New Music Initiative.

**David Halen** served as Assistant Concertmaster with the Houston Symphony Orchestra under Sergiu Comissiona and Christoph Eschenbach until 1991. He then came to St. Louis, where he was permanently named concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony in September 1995, without audition, and with the endorsement of then Music Directors Leonard Slatkin and Hans Vonk. As co-founder and artistic director of the Innsbrook Institute, Halen coordinates a weeklong festival in June with exciting musical performances and an enclave for aspiring artists. In August, he acts as artistic director of the Missouri River Festival of the Arts in Boonville, Missouri. His numerous accolades include the 2002 St. Louis Arts and Entertainment Award for Excellence, and honorary doctorates from Central Missouri State University and from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Halen plays a 1753 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin, made in Milan.

Guitarist **Kirk Hanser** has performed throughout the U.S., Europe and Japan as soloist with orchestra, various chamber groups and on solo guitar. In concert and on recordings, he is mainly heard, along with John McClellan, as the internationally acclaimed Hanser-McClellan Guitar Duo. He has appeared on numerous recordings with a wide range of artists and organizations, and is an author for Warner Brothers Publications and Mel Bay Publications with numerous books in print ranging in style from classical to jazz, rock and country. An award-winning teacher as well as performer, Hanser’s work with students has garnered several national awards including “National Teacher of the Year” and three-time “Outstanding National Program” for his work with the Childbloom Guitar Program.

Tickets are \$30 orchestra/\$25 balcony/\$15 student, 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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