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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRAMMY-WINNING PIANIST DANILO PÉREZ TO PERFORM MUSIC FROM *PANAMA 500***

ST. LOUIS – The Sheldon and the Hispanic Arts Council of St. Louis present **Danilo Pérez: Panama 500**, Saturday, February 27 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. Growing up in Panama, multiple Grammy Award winner Danilo Pérez was recognized at an early age as a master of the keyboard. A pianist, composer, educator and social activist, Danilo Pérez is among the most influential and dynamic musicians of our time. Weaving together jazz and Pan-American folkloric traditions with influences from European classical music on his most recent project, *Panama 500*, Pérez's blend of inspirations makes him the ideal musical chronicler of his country's history and vibrant indigenous culture. He has long investigated the music of Latin America, combining the rhythms and melodies he grew up with and the expansive harmonies of modern jazz.

Danilo Pérez has toured and recorded with artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, the United Nations Orchestra, Jack DeJohnette, Lee Konitz, Charlie Haden, Michael Brecker, Joe Lovano, Tito Puente, Wynton Marsalis, Gary Burton and Roy Haynes. In 2000, Pérez joined Wayne Shorter to form Shorter's legendary quartet with John Patitucci and Brian Blade. He later turned his focus to his own ensembles and recording projects, releasing eight albums as a leader, earning Grammy® and Latin Grammy® nominations for *Central Avenue* (1989), *Motherland* (2000) and *Across The Crystal Sea* (2008). Since 2003, he has been touring with his regular trio featuring Ben Street and Adam Cruz.

Pérez, who served as Cultural Ambassador to the Republic of Panama and Goodwill Ambassador to UNICEF, has received a variety of awards for his musical achievements, activism and social work efforts. As a composer he has been commissioned by Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Chicago Jazz Festival and Imani Winds Quintet, among others. As a performer and an innovator, Pérez continues to inspire young players to believe that they can positively affect their communities as they learn their craft.

Single tickets are \$40 orchestra/\$35 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. 17. For more information, call The Sheldon at 314-533-9900 or visit [TheSheldon.org](http://TheSheldon.org).

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*Welcomed by WSIE 88.7 The Jazz Station*