

Chris Peimann
Director of Marketing and Publicity
cpeimann@TheSheldon.org
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 19

Sarah Samples
Marketing and Publicity Coordinator
ssamples@TheSheldon.org
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 16, 2018



**ALARM WILL SOUND RETURNS TO THE SHELDON WITH MUSIC BY
MARY KOUYOUMDJIAN, FRANÇOIS SARHAN AND JULIUS EASTMAN**

The Sheldon presents Alarm Will Sound, Thursday, February 8 at 8 p.m. in the perfect acoustics of the Sheldon Concert Hall. The cutting-edge ensemble returns for their 6th “St. Louis Season,” performing the newest music being composed today with energetic virtuosity and a sense of adventure, creating programs that span a wide range of styles.

Alarm Will Sound (AWS) returns with music by Mary Kouyoumdjian, François Sarhan and Julius Eastman. The program features two world premieres (Sarhan and Kouyoumdjian) that explore, through music, text and movement, the experiences of some of those from marginalized populations. Kouyoumdjian’s piece is an excerpt of *Paper Pianos*, a work currently being developed as an evening-length concert event. *Paper Pianos* uses the story of Milad Yousufi, a refugee from Afghanistan, as its starting point. Kouyoumdjian interviewed Yousufi and others about their experiences, both in their homelands and in the United States, and then composed music to accompany, support and illuminate the recordings of these interviews. *Hands*, by François Sarhan, uses *Testimony* by Charles Reznikoff as its point of departure. Drawing from Reznikoff’s poem, Sarhan has produced a multi-movement piece in which AWS members move, speak and play their instruments. *Testimony* takes texts dealing with the black experience from around the turn of the twentieth century, *Hands* brings these texts back and shows how they still resonate today.

Alex Ross of the *The New Yorker* says of Julius Eastman’s *Stay On It*, “There’s a hint of disco in the festive, propulsive sound. But more dissonant, unruly material intrudes, and several times the piece dissolves into beatless anarchy.” For this performance of Eastman’s work from 1973, AWS will use an adaptation by Tim Leopold, AWS trumpet player and arranger.

Tickets are \$20 general admission/\$10 student 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.

###

Sponsored by the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation and the Mizgou New Music Initiative