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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
Presents  
VIOLINIST JOHNNY GANDELSMAN: *This Is America***

**Series of “Musical Diaries” Features  
Solo Works, Including Two World Premieres,  
by Composers Ranging in Gender,  
Ethnic Background, Age and Genre  
Commissioned by 20 Presenters in 11 States and Washington D.C.**

**Thursday May 19 , 2022, 8:00 PM**

(Beverly Hills, CA, April 25, 2022) – Grammy Award-winning violinist and producer Johnny Gandelsman presents eight works, including two world premieres, from his latest solo project, *This Is America*, a major commissioning and recording project featuring more than 20 new works for solo violin composed by American and U.S.-based artists ranging in gender, ethnic backgrounds and age, on Thursday, May 19, 2022, 8 pm, at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Commissioned by twenty presenters in 11 states and Washington D.C., *This is America* celebrates America’s rich cultural tapestry and its myriad perspectives, thoughts and ideas, offering a vivid counterpoint to the idea that the country can be understood through a singular, dominant point of view. Each composition in the anthology reflects upon the current state of American society in a personal and intimate way, looking through an unflinching lens at such universal topics as separation, loneliness, hope and love. For his Wallis engagement, Gandelsman presents the world premieres of Aeryn Santillan's *withdraw*, commissioned by The Wallis, and Kojiro Umezaki's *Breathe*. Gandelsman will also be featured on Akshaya Avril Tucker's *Pallavi - a Meditation on Care*; Tomeka Reid's *Rhapsody*; Justin Messina's *Music For Solitude*; Ebun Oguntola's *Reflections*; *A City Upon a Hill?* by Rhea Fowler and Micaela Tobin; and Rhiannon Giddens' *New To The Session*.

Describing *This is America* as a series of “musical diaries,” Gandelsman says, “As we live through a time of disruption and disconnection, with COVID-19, the somewhat recent US election, deep polarization, entrenched systemic racism and police brutality, it is clear that the years 2020 and 2021 will be seared in our collective memories for a long time. *This is America* was conceived in

response to that turbulent period in history.”

Gandelsman’s bold and unique musical voice integrates a wide range of creative sensibilities into a unique style that possesses “a balletic lightness of touch and a sense of whimsy and imagination” (*Boston Globe*). As a founding member of Brooklyn Rider and a member of the Silkroad Ensemble, Gandelsman has worked closely with such luminaries as Bela Fleck, Martin Hynes, Yo-Yo Ma, Mark Morris, Anne Sofie Van Otter, Joshua Redman and Suzanne Vega. He has appeared with Bono, David Byrne, Renee Fleming, Christian McBride and many others. A passionate advocate for new music, Gandelsman has premiered dozens of new works by such artists as Reena Esmail, Gabriela Lena Frank, Osvaldo Golijov and Nico Muhly. As a producer, his credits include Brooklyn Rider’s “Spontaneous Symbols,” and two albums with Silkroad Ensemble and Yo-Yo Ma: Music for “The Vietnam War,” a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick; and “Sing Me Home,” which won a Grammy Award for Best World Music album. Gandelsman’s recording of the Complete Cello Suites Transposed for Violin, released in February 2020, on In A Circle Records, reached #2 on Billboard’s Traditional Classical Chart. That project followed Gandelsman’s celebrated debut recording of Bach’s complete Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin, which reached #1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart and made it onto *New York Magazine* and *The New York Times* Best of the Year lists.

Support for this performance is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Colburn Foundation.

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis’ ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, our staff, and artists inside and outside our venue are a top priority for The Wallis, which is requiring all patrons to provide, upon entry, proof of full vaccination, or a negative PCR test result within 48 hours or a verifiable Antigen test within 24 hours from your performance date, along with a government issued photo ID. Facial masks, covering both the mouth and nose, are still required at all times while within the venue. The Wallis’ health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue’s sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. Our current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at [TheWallis.org/Safety](https://thewallis.org/Safety).

Tickets, \$60, are on sale now. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase tickets and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 or visit <https://thewallis.org/quartet>.

**About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:**

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 350 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the

unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff and Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

For downloadable photos, please visit: [TheWallis.org/Press](http://TheWallis.org/Press).

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**EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**WHAT:**

**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**

Presents

**JOHNNY GANDELSMAN: *This is America***

**PROGRAM:**

KSHAYA AVRIL TUCKER *Pallavi - a Meditation on Care*

TOMEKA REID *Rhapsody*

KOJIRO UMEZAKI *Breathe* (World Premiere)

USTIN MESSINA *Music For Solitude*

EBUN OGUNTOLA *Reflections*

AERYN SANTILLAN *Withdraw* (World Premiere)

RHEA FOWLER & MICAELA TOBIN *A City Upon a Hill?*

RHIANNON GIDDENS *New To The Session*

**WHEN:**

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 8:00 PM

**WHERE:**

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Lovelace Theater

9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**RUN TIME:**

Approximately 90 minutes, no intermission

**TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:**

\$60 (subject to change)

310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm)

<https://thewallis.org/quartet>

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to current health and safety variables, the engagement or select performances are subject to change, postponement or cancellation.

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