

**The Wallis Presents
Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in**

MAESTRO

Final West Coast Engagement: Aug 10 – 28

**With a One-Night-Only Audience Favorite
*Hershey Felder's The Great American Songbook Sing-Along on Aug 22***

(Beverly Hills, CA March 3) The extraordinary performing artist **Hershey Felder** will make his debut at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts with his critically-acclaimed production of **Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in *MAESTRO*** for a special Los Angeles engagement from August 10 – 28, 2016. Directed by Joel Zwick, *MAESTRO* features only 22 performances prior to transferring to New York in fall of 2016. *MAESTRO* bows at The Wallis on August 10 with a special Opening Night Celebration. Single tickets and subscription series are now available for purchase.

Leonard Bernstein was a conductor, pianist, author, educator, librettist, television star, and the composer of symphonies, iconic film scores and the American musical classics *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *On the Town* and *Wonderful Town*, among others. He pushed boundaries to become the world's first serious musical media superstar and changed the face of music. In his inimitable style, Hershey Felder brings Bernstein to life through first-person narratives combined with the compositions of Bernstein, Beethoven, Mahler, Wagner, Copeland, and more. The audience is drawn deeply into this maestro's fascinating life, one filled with tragedy, triumph, and extraordinary music.

"Hershey has the unique ability to fully transform himself into his portrayals of great musical icons," said Paul Crewes, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts' new Artistic Director who takes the reins full time in April 2016. "We are excited to welcome Hershey to The Wallis and give audiences the chance to see this truly captivating performance one final time before its opening in New York."

"Every serious musician in America owes a great debt to Leonard Bernstein," said Felder. "Besides being a maker of music and musicians, Leonard Bernstein also became the musical ambassador of the world with his affable musical manner, love of teaching and learning, photogenic countenance and the newly minted television broadcasting him into homes around the globe. Bringing this character to life based on personal time spent with many people who knew him well, including members of his family, and the study of his music and musical style has been an honor, a joy, and a truly incredible journey. Being able to bring him to life at the beautiful acoustically brilliant Wallis, in the city where I began these theatrical portrayals, is really a dream come true."

Leonard Bernstein's only son, Alexander, says of Felder: "His performance truly reveals the man, the story and the music of my father, Leonard Bernstein."

Additionally, Felder invites audiences to join him on Monday, August 22 at 8pm for a special one-night-only performance of **Hershey Felder's The Great American Songbook Sing-Along**, taking audiences through 100 years of American music from the Gershwins, Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and many more. Audiences are encouraged to sing along with Felder as he leads them through the familiar notes of their favorite songs. Sing-Along tickets range from \$20-\$50.

Single tickets for **Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in MAESTRO** are now available for \$25 – \$85, or three-show subscriptions including *The Revisionist* and *The City of Conversation* begin at \$104. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit TheWallis.org, call 310.746.4000, or stop by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change.

About the Artists:

Hershey Felder (Leonard Bernstein/Playwright) created and performed *George Gershwin Alone*, which played on Broadway at the Helen Hayes Theatre, in the West End at the Duchess Theatre, and in theatres around the country. His Composers Sonata—*George Gershwin Alone; Monsieur Chopin; Beethoven, As I Knew Him; Maestro Bernstein; Hershey Felder as Franz Liszt in Musik, Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*—has been presented at dozens of theatres across the U.S. and around the world. His compositions and recordings include *Aliyah, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris, Suite for Violin and Piano; Song Settings; Saltimbanques for Piano and Orchestra; Etudes Thematiques for Piano*; and *An American Story for Actor and Orchestra*. As director, he premiered Mona Golabek in *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* at the Geffen Playhouse in 2012 and recently produced and created scenic design for Taylor Hackford's *Louis and Keely 'Live' at the Sahara*. He created Eighty-Eight Entertainment in 2001. Its newest division, Hershey Felder Presents, continues in the creation of new works of musical theatre. Current projects include the musical plays *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* as well as the upcoming *Hershey Felder Tchaikovsky* and several musical theatre projects in development. Mr. Felder has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University's Department of Music and is married to Kim Campbell, the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

Joel Zwick (Director) directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time. Mr. Zwick is recognized as one of Hollywood's most prolific director of episodic television, having the direction of 525 episodes to his credit. These include having directed 21 pilots which have gone on to become regular series. He directed the Broadway production of *George Gershwin Alone*. Previous New York productions have included *Dance With Me* (Tony Award nomination), *Shenandoah* (Broadway national tour), *Oklahoma* (national tour) and *Cold Storage* (American Place Theater). He directed *Esther* (Promenade Theater, NY), *Merry-Go-Round* (Chicago, Las Vegas), *Last Chance Saloon* and *Woyzeck* (West End, London). Mr. Zwick has taught drama at the Yale School of Drama, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College and USC. A graduate (B.A., M.A.) of Brooklyn College, he currently directs for the Disney Channel.

For downloadable photos, please visit TheWallis.org/Press.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

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TICKET INFORMATION:

What: Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in *MAESTRO*
When: August 10 – 28, 2016
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Evenings at 8 pm
Saturdays at 3 pm and 8 pm; Sundays at 2pm and 7pm
Running time: 1 hour and 45 mins with no intermission
Pricing: Single tickets: \$25 – \$85 (prices subject to change).
Subscriptions: Beginning at \$104+ (includes *The Revisionist*, *The City of Conversation*, and Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in *MAESTRO*).
Opening Night Tickets: \$275 - \$375 (includes special pre-performance celebration and light supper, and post-performance champagne reception; Sponsorship packages available from \$2,500+).

What: *Hershey Felder's The Great American Songbook Sing-Along*
When: August 22, 2016 at 8 pm
Pricing: Single tickets: \$20-\$50

Where: Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

Tickets: Online – [TheWallis.org](#)
By Phone – 310.746.4000
Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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