

PRESS CONTACT:

Press@TheWallis.org

Libby Huebner, nyjazz@aol.com, 562.799.6055

Laura Stegman, LauraStegmanPR@gmail.com

--->PHOTOS FOR DOWNLOAD

<https://thewallis.org/photos.php?id=372>

**The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Announces Seven World Premiere Live Streamed Musical Films
Produced by
HERSHEY FELDER PRESENTS – LIVE FROM FLORENCE**

Dante & Beatrice in Florence
premieres November 28, 2021

Mozart and Figaro in Vienna
premieres January 9, 2022

The Verdi Fiasco
premieres March 27, 2022

The Assembly
premieres May 29, 2022

Chopin in Paris
premieres August 7, 2022

The Crazy Widow of Moses de Leon
premieres October 16, 2022

A Musical Surprise for Holiday Time
premieres December 18, 2022

(Beverly Hills, CA, November 17, 2021) – The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts announces seven world premiere live streamed musical films produced by **HERSHEY FELDER PRESENTS – LIVE FROM FLORENCE**, including *Dante & Beatrice in Florence*, *Mozart and Figaro in Vienna*, *The Verdi Fiasco*, *The Assembly*, *Chopin in Paris*, *The Crazy Widow of Moses de Leon*, and a musical surprise for holiday time.

Hershey Felder Presents – Live From Florence's 2021/2022 season of new musical and dramatic films are produced in Europe and broadcast for American audiences by writer, pianist, and actor

Hershey Felder and his **Live From Florence** arts broadcasting company. The production company has expanded beyond its home base in Florence, Italy, with a season of new musical and dramatic stories set and filmed in Paris, Vienna, Venice, Warsaw, and Avila (Spain). The new season follows the international success of **Live From Florence's 2020/2021 Season**, which featured eight streaming productions that employed over 300 artists. The productions sold more than 56,000 tickets and distributed over \$1.5 million to US and international arts institutions.

Dante in Florence, premiering November 28, 2021, is about Italy's greatest poet, Dante Alighieri, and his muse, Beatrice; ***Mozart and Figaro in Vienna***, premiering January 9, 2022, is a tale of the outrageous collaboration between Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Lorenzo da Ponte that created the perfect comic opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*; ***The Verdi Fiasco***, premiering March 27, 2022, is about the disastrous opening night of Verdi's immortal *La Traviata*; ***The Assembly***, premiering May 29, 2022, features the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts and tells the real-life story of Holocaust survivor Eva Libitzky's visit to diverse urban schools and the shocking events that subsequently occurred; ***Chopin in Paris***, premiering August 7, 2022, is adapted from Felder's critically acclaimed stage play *Monsieur Chopin* about the music and life of Polish Pianist-composer Fryderyk Chopin; ***The Crazy Widow (of Moses de Leon)***, premiering October 16, 2022, set in Avila, Spain, focuses on 13th century Jewish mysticism that is the basis for the Kabbalah; and **a musical surprise for holiday time**, premiering December 18, 2022, will have its subject decided on by viewers who purchase a World Premiere Pass.

Felder, who has resided in Florence, Italy, since the start of the worldwide pandemic, created the **Live From Florence** film studio in Tuscany in order to support artists and arts organizations during such challenging times. Proceeds from the first season of productions benefitted the theatres and arts organizations, such as The Wallis, that have been Felder's artistic homes in the U.S., as well as additional U.S. and international institutions. **Hershey Felder Presents – Live from Florence** has featured both world premiere productions created expressly for streaming as well as filmic adaptations of Felder's popular theatrical shows centered around the work of famous composers. Felder's unique productions include pre-filmed and live performance elements.

Hershey Felder, an actor, pianist, writer, director, composer, conductor, and producer, has created lauded shows about composers Claude Debussy, George Gershwin, Fryderyk Chopin, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Liszt, Leonard Bernstein, Irving Berlin and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Felder's solo shows have been seen across America at The Wallis, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, San Diego Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Old Globe Theatre, American Repertory Theater, Cleveland Playhouse, and Seattle Repertory Theatre, with long runs at Chicago's Royal George Theatre and engagements at New York's Town Hall, 59E59 and the Streicker Center and more as well as Broadway's Helen Hayes Theatre and in London's West End. He has also created and/or produced plays for other artists including the award-winning *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* for Mona Golabek, *Flying Solo* for Nathan Gunn, and *Louis and Keeley Live at the Sahara* for Vanessa Stewart and Taylor Hackford, among others.

All seven **Hershey Felder Presents – Live From Florence** productions are available via a **WORLD PREMIERE PASS** for \$220.00 per household for viewing on Smart TV, computer, smartphone or tablet. This 40% discount (a savings of \$165) can be purchased until November 26, 2021. The World Premiere Pass includes the live premiere airing; unlimited on-demand access to **Hershey**

Felder Presents – Live from Florence Season 1 and Season 2 through December 31, 2022; unlimited access to all Live from Florence shows; and access to behind the scenes events included in Felder’s library. Single tickets are \$55 per program, with that production subsequently available to single ticket holders on demand for one week after its live streaming premiere. Patrons will receive their viewing links the Friday before each film’s premiere. Tickets cannot be transferred or shared.

For more information or to purchase the World Premiere Pass or single tickets, call 310.746.4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/HFSeason. Ticket prices subject to change.

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 300 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, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

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

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

Like The Wallis on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

PROGRAM DETAILS

**The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Announces Seven World Premiere Live Streamed Musical Films
Produced by HERSHEY FELDER PRESENTS – LIVE FROM FLORENCE**

Dante & Beatrice in Florence

premieres November 28, 2021

The heroine of Dante’s *The Divine Comedy* is Beatrice, whom he met only twice. But Dante was so smitten with Beatrice that she remained his ideal love for the rest of his life. The little church where they first met more than 700 years ago, still standing in Florence, is known as the “Chiesa Di Dante.” It is where Beatrice is said to be buried. Next to Beatrice’s tomb is a basket, where, for hundreds of years, notes of hope, dreams, heartbreak, and love have been left by visitors with open hearts asking for Beatrice’s blessing.

One of those notes is a mysterious old musical manuscript, and it is there that ***Dante & Beatrice in Florence*** begins.

Mozart and Figaro in Vienna

premieres January 9, 2022

The world first heard and saw *The Marriage of Figaro* in Vienna in 1786. The opera, considered by many the first and perhaps only perfect opera, was borne of a staggering collaboration between Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Lorenzo da Ponte – a Jew, a priest and a brothel owner all rolled into one. Da Ponte had been banished from Venice, and he ended up in Vienna, where he was introduced to Mozart. With Mozart at the helm, the two of them decided to take a banned play by the French writer Beaumarchais and turn it into the greatest and most beloved opera ever composed.

The Verdi Fiasco

premieres March 27, 2022

Set in Venice in 1853 at Teatro La Fenice on *La Traviata*'s opening night, *The Verdi Fiasco* asks this question: Will a story about a courtesan dying of consumption sung by a soprano too “ample” to be consumed by anything, and a cast of characters that seemed to have wandered into the theatre off the street, survive the most vicious public shaming that an opera had ever seen? Even Verdi himself wasn't sure.

The Assembly

premieres May 29, 2022

The Assembly is based on the experience of Holocaust survivor Eva Libitzky, who spent her post-war life in America visiting primary and secondary schools throughout the United States to tell her story. At one school, a diverse group of students who were unaware of the events of WWII gathered at an assembly to “honor” their guest with music. As Eva's story reveals itself, there is a shocking turn of events, where everyone present finds themselves reliving a terrifying past. (*In collaboration with the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts.*)

Chopin in Paris

premieres August 7, 2022

Based on the well-known play *Monsieur Chopin*, and filmed in Paris and Warsaw, ***Chopin in Paris*** recreates a time during the revolution when the great Polish Composer-Pianist, Fryderyk Chopin, gives a piano lesson that reveals his secrets about music, and even more so, secrets about himself.

The Crazy Widow of Moses de Leon

premieres October 16, 2022

In the 13th century, the medieval walled city of Avila, Spain, was home to hundreds of Jewish Mystics, among them Moses de Leon, author of *The Zohar* – the work of literature upon which the Kabbalah (Jewish Mysticism) – is based. Red strings tied around wrists and other such fanciful actions are but a tiny part of a little-known story that is sure to surprise, delight and elicit a great deal of wonder.

A Musical Surprise for Holiday Time

premieres December 18, 2022

Over some 30 years, patrons have asked Hershey Felder for productions telling the stories and featuring the music of composers and musical stars throughout the ages. For this season closer, the artist chosen to be featured will be based on patron choice. **WORLD PREMIERE PASS** purchasers will be able to send one request per ticket. The composer/artist with the most requests will be the subject of the second season closer, with the only requirement being that the composer or musical artist must no longer be living.

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills.

All seven **Hershey Felder Presents – Live from Florence** productions are available via a **WORLD PREMIERE PASS** for \$220.00 per household for viewing on Smart TV, computer, smartphone or tablet. This 40% discount (a savings of \$165) can be purchased until November 26, 2021. The World Premiere Pass includes the live premiere airing; unlimited on-demand access to **Hershey Felder Presents – Live from Florence** Season 1 and Season 2 through December 31, 2022; unlimited access to all Live from Florence shows; and access to behind the scenes events included in Felder’s library. Single tickets are \$55 per program, with that production subsequently available to single ticket holders on demand for one week after its live streaming premiere. Patrons will receive their viewing links the Friday before each premiere air date. Tickets cannot be transferred or shared.

For more information or to purchase the World Premiere Pass or single tickets, call 310.746.4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/HFSeason. Ticket prices subject to change.