

PRESS CONTACT:

Press@TheWallis.org

Laura Stegman, LauraStegmanPR@gmail.com

Libby Huebner, libbyhuebner562@gmail.com, 562.799.6055

--->PHOTOS FOR DOWNLOAD

<https://www.thewallis.org/photos.php?id=439>

**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS
HERSHEY FELDER AS *GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE*
*Final Farewell Performances of Gershwin***

**Music and Lyrics of George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin
Book by Hershey Felder
Directed by Joel Zwick**

**FIVE PERFORMANCES ONLY
Thursday, April 13 – Sunday, April 16, 2023
The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater**

(Beverly Hills, CA, March 14, 2023) – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents virtuoso pianist/actor/playwright/producer Hershey Felder, who returns to The Wallis for a limited engagement of **HERSHEY FELDER AS *GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE***, from Thursday, April 13 through Sunday, April 16, 2023, in The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater. Gershwin, the legendary composer of hundreds of iconic American standards, comes to life onstage in a musical performance declared, "'S Wonderful, 'S Marvelous!" by *The Washington Post*, "Sheer joy" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and "Glorious. Poignant, moving, and fascinating" by *USA TODAY*.

This exploration of Gershwin's short but extraordinary life illuminates the master tunesmith whose work shaped a distinctly American style of music. *George Gershwin Alone* spotlights this brilliant composer's prolific partnership with his brother, lyricist Ira Gershwin, and incorporates beloved songs ranging from the popular hits "Fascinating Rhythm," "I Got Rhythm," "'S Wonderful," and "They Can't Take That Away from Me," to excerpts from ground-breaking musicals *Porgy and Bess* and *An American In Paris*, and a complete performance of "Rhapsody In Blue."

Hershey Felder's *GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE*, born in Los Angeles in 1998 on the stage of the now gone Tiffany Theatre on Sunset Boulevard, has played to audiences worldwide for more than three thousand performances from Los Angeles to South Korea with Broadway and London's West End in between. According to Felder, "This presentation will be my farewell to a beloved character

who left us tragically in Beverly Hills only blocks from the Wallis theatre in 1937 at the tender age of 38.”

Featuring the music and lyrics of George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, with a book by Hershey Felder, the production is directed by Joel Zwick. Associate Director is Trevor Hay. Concept design is by Hershey Felder. Lighting is by Michael Gilliam, and sound is by Erik Carstensen.

George Gershwin was born in 1898 to Russian-Jewish immigrant parents in Brooklyn and composed his first hit at age 21. All told, he wrote more than one thousand songs for the stage and screen as well as works for the opera house and the symphony orchestra. Gershwin died of an undiagnosed brain tumor in 1937 at the age of 38, leaving behind a legion of bereft fans and an astonishing legacy of enduring music that has never dimmed in popularity.

Following 28 years of continuous stage work and over 6,000 live performances throughout the U.S. and abroad, **Hershey Felder** created *Live from Florence, An Arts Broadcasting Company*, which has produced eighteen theatrical films to date. They include the recently-released *The Assembly; Musical Tales in The Venetian Jewish Ghetto; Chopin and Liszt in Paris; Violetta*, the story of Verdi’s *Traviata*; *Dante and Beatrice in Florence; Mozart and Figaro in Vienna*; the world premiere musicals *Nicholas, Anna & Sergei*; the story of Sergei Rachmaninoff; *Puccini*, the story of famed opera composer Giacomo Puccini; *Before Fiddler*, a musical story about writer Sholem Aleichem; *Great American Songs and the Stories Behind Them, Leonard Bernstein and the Israel Philharmonic*, a documentary. Two seasons of programming are currently available at www.hersheyfelder.net Hershey has given performances of his solo productions at some of the world’s most prestigious theatres and has consistently broken box office records. His live shows include *George Gershwin Alone* (Broadway’s Helen Hayes Theatre, West End’s Duchess Theatre); *Monsieur Chopin; Beethoven; Maestro (Leonard Bernstein); Franz Liszt in Musik, Lincoln: An American Story, Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin, Our Great Tchaikovsky*, and *A Paris Love Story and Chopin in Paris*. 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*. Hershey is the adaptor, director, and designer for the internationally performed play-with-music *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* with Steinway artist Mona Golabek; producer and designer for the musical *Louis and Keely: ‘Live’ at the Sahara*, directed by Taylor Hackford; and writer and director for *Flying Solo*, featuring opera legend Nathan Gunn. Hershey has operated a full-service production company since 2001. He has been a scholar-in-residence at Harvard University’s Department of Music and is married to Kim Campbell.

Tickets for Hershey Felder as *George Gershwin Alone* (\$39-\$99) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in The Wallis' 2022/2023 Season. TheWallis.org/hershey-felder-as-gershwin-alone

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org.

The health and safety of patrons, staff, and artists inside and outside the venue are a top priority for The Wallis. Masks are optional, and proof of full COVID vaccination is no longer required; however, guests are welcome to wear masks in our spaces.

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. Current Health & Safety Protocols and updates may also be accessed at TheWallis.org/Safety. Policies are subject to change.

About Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

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 theater, dance, music, film, cabaret, conversation, and family entertainment 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. Michael Nemeroff is Chairman of The Wallis' Board of Directors.

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

Like The Wallis on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @thewallisbh

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS**

HERSHEY FELDER AS *GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE*

Music and Lyrics of George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin

Book by Hershey Felder

Directed by Joel Zwick

STARRING

Hershey Felder as George Gershwin

CREDITS:

Trevor Hay Associate Director

Hershey Felder Scenic Design

Michael Gilliam Lighting

Erik Carstensen Sound

WHEN:

Thursday, April 13 – Sunday, April 16, 2023

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 2 pm

The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater

RUNNING TIME:

Approximately one hour and 45 minutes with no intermission.

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

Tickets for Hershey Felder as *George Gershwin Alone* (\$39-\$99) are on sale now, as are single tickets and subscriptions to all performances in The Wallis' 2022/2023 Season. [TheWallis.org/hershey-felder-as-gershwin-alone](https://www.thewallis.org/hershey-felder-as-gershwin-alone)

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase single tickets, subscriptions and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit [TheWallis.org](https://www.thewallis.org).

PLEASE NOTE:

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