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Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

presents

Hershey Felder:

CHOPIN IN PARIS

Live on Stage at The Wallis

By Hershey Felder

Music of Fryderyk Chopin

Directed by Joel Zwick

July 5 - 24, 2022

(Beverly Hills, CA, June 14, 2022) – The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents pianist and actor Hershey Felder in the premiere of *Hershey Felder: CHOPIN IN PARIS* by Hershey Felder and directed by Joel Zwick, from Tuesday, July 5 through Sunday, July 24, 2022, in The Wallis' Lovelace Studio Theater.

Following his last live performance at The Wallis in 2019 as Claude Debussy, audience favorite Felder returns to play Fryderyk Chopin in a performance set in the brilliant Polish composer's Paris salon as he teaches a piano lesson that actually took place in March 1848 just days after the February 1848 revolution. As the lesson unfolds, Chopin reveals secrets about the art of the piano, composition, and about himself. Delving deep into the music and psyche of the man, considered by his contemporaries, and now by history, as the true "Poet of the Piano," Felder performs some of the pianist-composer's most beautiful and enduring music.

Hershey Felder: Chopin in Paris has delighted audiences across the country in critically acclaimed sold-out runs, with *The Mercury News* lauding Felder's performance as, "Enchanting ... Genius seems an apt description." *The Chicago Sun-Times* called the show "emotionally charged and glorious," while *The San Diego Union-Tribune* declared it, "Inviting and absorbing. Full of vibrant life."

Ticket prices are \$39-\$99 per person. 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 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/chopin.

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.

Hershey Felder (writer & performer), of whom *American Theatre Magazine* says, “Hershey Felder is in a category all his own.” Following 28 years of continuous stage work and over 6,000 live performances throughout the U.S. and abroad, Felder created Live from Florence, an arts broadcasting company, which has produced more than fifteen theatrical films to date. They include the recently-released *Violetta*, the story of Verdi's *Traviata*, *Dante and Beatrice*, *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, with two seasons of this programming currently available at www.hersheyfelder.net. Felder has given performances of his solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theatres and has consistently broken box office records. His 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*. 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*. Felder 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. He has operated a full-service production company since 2001, 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. Recent films include *Fat Albert* and *Elvis Has Left the Building*. Zwick directed the Broadway production of Hershey Felder's *George Gershwin Alone* at the Helen Hayes Theatre. He began his theatrical career at La Mama E.T.C. as director of the La Mama Plexus and has directed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Broadway touring companies. He and Hershey Felder have collaborated on *Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin*, *Beethoven As I Knew Him*, and *Maestro*. Currently, Zwick is recognized as one of Hollywood's most prolific directors of episodic television, having the direction of over 650 episodes to his credit. New York productions have included *Dance with Me* (Tony nomination), *Shenandoah* (Broadway national tour), *Oklahoma* (national tour) and *Cold Storage* (American Place Theater). He acted in the original New York production of *MacBird*. He directed *Esther* (Promenade Theater, NY), *Merry-Go-Round* (Chicago and Las

Vegas), *Last Chance Saloon* and *Woycek* (West End). Zwick has taught drama at Yale University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College, and the University of Southern California. He is a graduate (B.A., M.A.) of Brooklyn College.

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.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Hershey Felder: CHOPIN IN PARIS

By Hershey Felder

Music of Fryderyk Chopin

Directed by Joel Zwick

WHEN:

July 5 through 24, 2022

Tuesdays-Saturdays, 7:30 pm

Saturday matinees, 2 pm

Sundays, 2 pm and 7 pm

RUN TIME:

Approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

This production is made possible through the generous support of MSK.

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

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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.