HFP LIVE

PRESENTS

HERSHEY FELDER

THE PIANO AND ME

WRITTEN BY

HERSHEY FELDER

MUSIC OF

BACH, MOZART, BEETHOVEN, CHOPIN,
BARTOK, LISZT, RACHMANINOFF,
GERSHWIN, WILLIAMS, FELDER

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– STARRING –

HERSHEY FELDER

– CREATIVE TEAM –

Playwright	HERSHEY FELDER
Dramaturg	JERRY PATCH
Scenic Design	HERSHEY FELDER
Lighting Design	CHRISTOPHER RYNNE
Lighting Associate	KATY ATWELL
Sound Design	ERIK CARSTENSEN
Stage Manager	TREVOR HAY

– PRODUCTION TEAM –

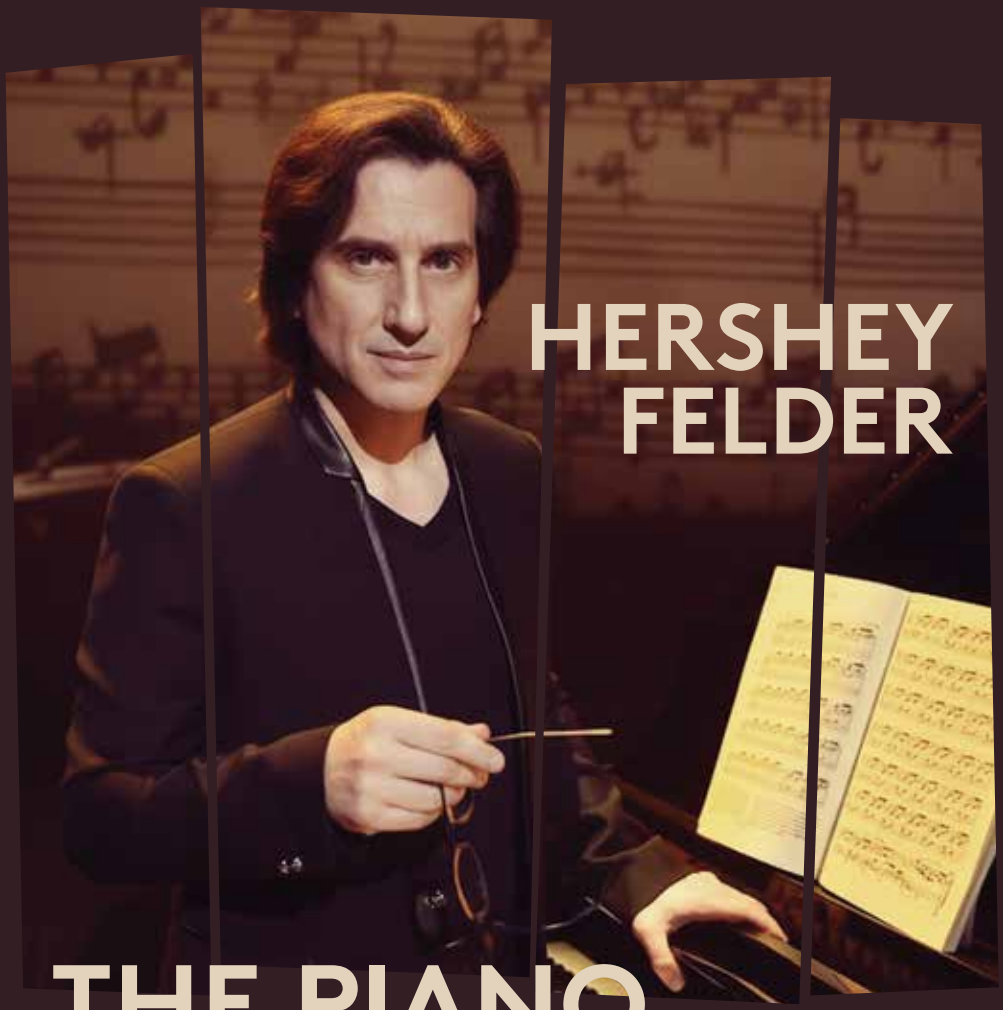
Production Manager	ERIK CARSTENSEN
Associate Producer	TAMMY GLOBERMAN

Run time: 1 hour, 50 minutes with no intermission

The world premiere of ***The Piano & Me*** was given at
The Tony Award-winning TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, in January of 2026.

Steinway piano generously provided by

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HERSHEY FELDER

THE PIANO AND ME

A NEW PLAY WITH MUSIC

FEATURING BACH, MOZART, BEETHOVEN, CHOPIN AND MORE…

HERSHEY FELDER
(Playwright/Performer)



Hershey Felder is currently the artistic director of FirenzeOnStage, directing Teatro Niccolini in Florence, Italy (Florence's oldest theater, 1648), at the foot of Florence's historic Duomo. Mr. Felder has presented film and stage superstars Jeff Goldblum, Helen Mirren, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Malcolm McDowell, the cast of *The Sound of Music* film, and many more. Superstar virtuosi presented include David Khrikuli, Boris Giltburg, Francesco Libetta, Inna Faliks, Charles Castronovo, and more along with directing superstar Taylor Hackford, Broadway stars Santino Fontana, Jenn Colella, and others. *American Theatre Magazine* has said, "Hershey Felder, actor, Steinway Concert Artist and theatrical creator is in a category all his own." Following 28 years of continuous stage productions and over 6,000 live performances throughout the US and abroad, Hershey Felder created Live from Florence, An Arts Broadcasting Company, based in Florence, which has produced more than eighteen theatrical films to date. They include the recently released *Noble Genius - Chopin & Liszt; The Assembly; 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; and the popular *Musical Tales in the Venetian Jewish Ghetto.* Two seasons of programming are currently available at www.hersheyfelder.net with season 3 being launched in 2026. Hershey has given performances of his solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theaters 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***. Season 2024 saw the world premiere of his newest work ***Rachmaninoff and the Tsar***, as composer-pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff opposite Jonathan Silvestri as Tsar Nicholas II, and 2026 has seen his world premiere of ***The Piano & Me*** at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. 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;" "An American Story for Actor and Orchestra," and the opera ***Il Quarto Uomo*** that premiered in Fiesole, Italy, in the summer of 2023 with the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. 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 Rt. Hn. Kim Campbell.

JERRY PATCH
(Dramaturg)

Jerry Patch served as dramaturg on more than 150 new plays, including the world premieres of ***Abundance***, ***Freedomland***, ***Golden Child***, ***Intimate Apparel***, ***Search and Destroy***, ***Three Days of Rain***, ***Ruined***, and ***Wit***. He was the founding project director for South Coast Repertory's Pacific Playwrights Festival and artistic director of the theater program of Sundance Institute. A professor of theater and film, he was consulting dramaturg for Roundabout Theatre Company (New York) for nearly a decade and resident artistic director at The Old Globe in San Diego. He is now artistic consultant for Manhattan Theatre Club, where he served more than a decade as director of artistic development, and is resident dramaturg at SCR.

CHRIS RYNNE
(Lighting Design)

Chris Rynne is a lighting and scenery designer for theater, opera, museum exhibitions, and architectural features. His theatrical design work has been seen in productions around the country, including The Old Globe, San Diego Repertory Theatre, San Diego Opera, Cygnet Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Madison Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Hartford Stage, Geffen Playhouse, Laguna Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and Off Broadway. He has been responsible for lighting a number of independent touring theatrical productions that have played across the United States as well as in London, Paris, and Tel Aviv. In addition to his lighting design work, Rynne also specializes in theatrical, entertainment and architectural control systems for theaters, houses of worship, hospitality, theme parks, schools, museums, and architainment features. He is a member of USA829.

KATY ATWELL
(Associate Lighting Design)

Katy Atwell is an east coast-based lighting designer currently living in Brooklyn, New York. Her MFA was completed at Boston University. Growing up as an athlete in central Illinois, she fell into theater and design through high school friends. Since then, she has never looked back. Katy has worked as an assistant for lighting designers such as Justin Townsend, Ken Posner, Mark McCullough, Russell Champa, and Matt Richards. In her spare time she enjoys cycling, gardening, good food, and dialogue around social and environmental change.

ERIK CARSTENSEN
(Sound Design/Production Management)

Erik Carstensen has worked for HFP LIVE since 2008. He has served as sound designer on ***Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin***, ***Our Great Tchaikovsky***, ***A Paris Love Story***, ***Maestro***, ***Louis and Keely "Live" at the Sahara***, ***An American Story***, ***Beethoven As I Knew Him*** (Ovation Award winner), ***The Pianist of Willesden Lane*** (Ovation Award nomination), and numerous other productions. Formerly, he was the master sound technician at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and was production engineer on more than 60 productions. Currently Erik is the head of production at Teatro Niccolini, Florence, Italy's oldest and most prestigious theater (1648).

STEFANO DECARLI
(Video Design)

Stefano Decarli was born in Florence, Italy, in 1983, and is an Italian filmmaker, editor, and producer. After graduating in 2010 in Agricultural Sciences and Sustainable Rural Development from the University of Florence, he worked in Iraq for two years for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, coordinating international development and reconstruction programs in collaboration with the US Department of Defense and the US Department of State. At the same time, he began his professional career in visual communication, specifically in photography and video production which then became his main profession. Since then, he has been working across Italy and Europe on multimedia content, feature films, live theater shows, music videos, and corporate videos. Starting in 2020, he has filmed, co-directed, and edited shows, movies, and documentaries in collaboration with renowned pianist, actor, director, and producer Hershey Felder. In 2023 he worked together with American director Madison Kinsella on a short documentary about a group of Ukrainian refugees in Italy, *A Castle for Kyiv*. The same year he also collaborated with Canadian director Jennifer Baichwal on the impact website insights following the 2022 documentary *Into The Weeds*. He's also a professor of Multimedia Language at ISIA Firenze, the first university-level public institution for Design education in Italy.

TAMMY GLOBERMAN
(Associate Producer)

Based in Los Angeles, Globerman joined the Hershey Felder Presents team in the summer of 2020. She worked with Hershey on his earlier projects in the late 1990s and 2000s before working with talent agencies specializing in below-the-line talent for film and television. After taking some time off to be with her two children, she is excited to be working again with Hershey and his team.

CURATOR'S NOTE

For many years, Hershey Felder has invited audiences into the lives of some of history's greatest composers, illuminating not only their genius but the humanity behind the music. In ***The Piano and Me***, he turns his extraordinary gifts inward.

I traveled to CA to see this show during one of the most brutal NYC winters, and yes, the weather was a welcome reprieve, but even warmer was Hershey's invitation to share this personal and remarkable journey that shaped his life and career. A completely joyous and moving love letter to his mentors, friends, audiences, and most of all, his family.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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KEVIN MOLICA

Theater Technicians
AARON CONOVER
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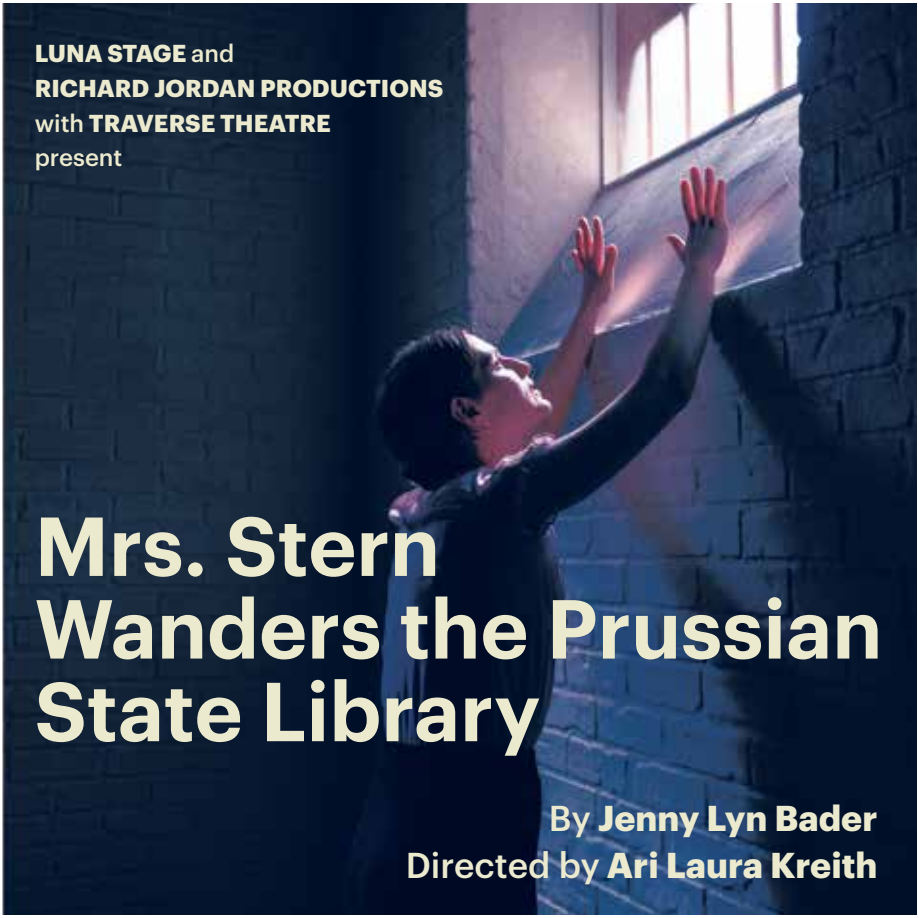
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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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