



62nd Season  
SEGERSTROM STAGE / JUNE 10-20, 2026



# South Coast Repertory

David Ivers  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Suzanne Appel  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

David Emmes & Martin Benson  
FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

presents

Hershey Felder

## THE PIANO AND ME

A new play with music

book by Hershey Felder

with music by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin,  
Bartock, Liszt, Rachmaninoff, Gershwin and Williams

Trevor Hay  
STAGE MANAGER

Jerry Patch  
DRAMATURG

Erik Carstensen  
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT &  
SOUND DESIGN

Christopher Rynne  
LIGHTING DESIGN

Stefano Decarli  
VIDEO & PROJECTION  
DESIGN

Jeremy Kalke  
SOUND ASSOCIATE

Hershey Felder  
SCENIC AND VISUAL  
ELEMENTS

Kenneth & Chantelle Labowe/Labowe  
Family Foundation  
HONORARY PRODUCER

Stephen G. and Regina Oswald  
Foundation  
HONORARY PRODUCER

An HFP LIVE production

**CAST**

*Hershey Felder*

Himself and 16 other people.

**SETTING**

*The Present.*

**LENGTH**





*Approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes, with no intermission.*

**PRODUCTION STAFF**

Associate Producer..... *Tammy Globerman*  
 Production Assistant ..... *Taylor Squires*  
 Light Board Operator ..... *Hannah Gates-Ferla*  
 Follow Spot Operator ..... *Andre Lee*  
 A1/Sound Board Operator ..... *Jordan Buckelew*  
 Wardrobe Supervisor ..... *Jillian Pricco*

*Cellular phones, beepers and watch alarms should be turned off or set to non-audible mode during the performance.  
 Please refrain from unwrapping candy or making other noises that may disturb surrounding patrons.*

*Photos may be taken before and after the show, but not during the performance itself.  
 Smoking, including the use of vapes, is not permitted anywhere in the theatre.*

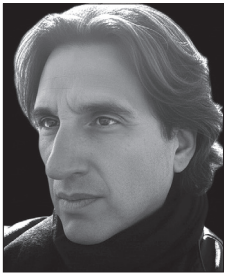
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STEINWAY & SONS

# Artist Biographies



## HERSHEY FELDER

Actor, Pianist, Producer,  
Playwright, Composer

is currently the Artistic Director of FirenzeOnStage, directing Teatro Niccolini in Florence, Italy, (Florence's oldest theatre, 1648) at the left wing of Florence's historic Duomo. Mr. Felder opened the 2024-25 season with film and stage superstar Jeff Goldblum, and presented international superstars such as Helen Mirren, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Boris Giltburg, Taylor Hackford, Tony winners Santino Fontana, Jenn Colella, the cast of the film of the *Sound of Music* and many more. For the 2025-26 season, Felder presented the Italian premiere of *Caligula the Final Cut*, with the presence of its superstars, Malcolm McDowell and Helen Mirren in a discussion with the audience. The season continues with stars of stage, screen, opera and classical music. *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 more than 6,000 live performances throughout the U.S. and abroad, Felder created Live from Florence, An Arts Broadcasting Company, based in Florence, Italy, which has produced 18 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 [hershefelder.net](http://hershefelder.net) with season three being launched in spring of 2026. Upcoming films include The 60th anniversary documentary story

of *The Sound of Music* film; *The Joe Alterman Project* featuring the story of Jazz pianist Joe Alterman and *Tender Art*, the story of George Sand, Eugène Delacroix and Fryderyk Chopin. Felder has given performances of his solo theatre 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*, (Debussy) *Monsieur Chopin* and *Rachmaninoff and the Tsar*. Season 2024 saw the world premiere of *Rachmaninoff and the Tsar*, as composer-pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff opposite Jonathan Silvestri as Tsar Nicholas II. 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. 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. Felder 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. Hershey currently resides in Florence where he is the director of a full service film production studio, Monte Acuto Arti, in Bagno a Ripoli.

**TREVOR HAY** (*Stage Manager*) directed the world premieres of *An American Story for Actor and Orchestra*, *Abe Lincoln's Piano*, *Hershey Felder as Franz Liszt in Musik*, *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin, Our Great Tchaikovsky* and *A Paris Love Story*. He is as-

sociate director for Mona Golabek's *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, *George Gershwin Alone* and *Maestro*. Former member of the historic Old Globe Theatre in San Diego where, at the age of nine, his first position was selling Old Globe memorabilia. Over the next 32 years, Mr. Hay went on to various aspects of production on more than 80 presentations.

**JERRY PATCH** (*Dramaturg*) 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 theatre program of Sundance Institute. A professor of theatre 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.

**ERIK CARSTENSEN** (*Sound Design/Production Management*) has worked for Eighty-Eight Entertainment 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.

**CHRIS RYNNE** (*Lighting Design*) is a Lighting and Scenery Designer for theatre, 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 specifies theatrical, entertainment and architectural control systems for theatres, houses of worship, hospitality, theme parks, schools, museums and archtainment features. He is a member of USA829.

**STEFANO DECARLI** (*Video Design*) born in Florence in 1983, 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 U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. 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 Ukraine 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 1990's and 2000's 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.

**DAVID IVERS** (*Artistic Director*) is responsible for the overall artistic operation of the theatre.

The 2019-20 season was the first he programmed for SCR and during that season, he directed *She Loves Me*. In addition, he directed the 2024 production of *Joan*—both the world premiere at SCR and the 2025 East Coast premiere at Barrington Stage Company—the 2021 Pacific Playwrights Festival reading of *Coleman '72* by Charlie Oh and the 2022 reading of Spenser Davis' *A Million Tiny Pieces*. He spent August 2023 directing Guthrie Theater's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He was last seen onstage at SCR as John in Richard Greenberg's world premiere of *A Shot Rang Out* and as part of his SCR tenure, created the theatre's Outside SCR program in partnership with Mission San Juan Capistrano. Prior to his appointment as Artistic Director, he directed the SCR-Berkeley Repertory Theatre co-production of *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Before arriving to SCR in his current capacity, Ivers was artistic director for Arizona Theatre Company and, before that, served more than 20 years as an actor and director at Utah Shakespeare Festival, with the last six as artistic director. He was a resident artist at Denver Center for the Performing Arts for a decade, acting in and/or directing more than 40 plays, and has helmed productions at many of the nation's leading regional theatres, including the Guthrie Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and South Coast Repertory. Ivers' early career included serving as associate artistic director of Portland Repertory Theatre and appearing in productions at some of the nation's most prestigious theatres, including Portland Center Stage and the Oregon, Alabama and Idaho Shakespeare festivals. He has taught at the University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Southern Utah University and Southern Oregon University. He earned his BA from Southern Oregon University and his MFA from the University of Minnesota.

**SUZANNE APPEL** (*Managing Director*) For more than two decades, Appel has pursued a personal mission to bring people together through transformative experiences led by form-challenging artists. Working in partnership with Artistic Director David Ivers and reporting to the Board of Trustees, Appel is responsible for providing strategic leadership for SCR's long-term sustainability and growth. She oversees SCR's business operations,

## Honorary Producers

**KENNETH AND CHANTELE LABOWE / LABOWE FAMILY FOUNDATION** have been devoted patrons of SCR since the late 1990s, when they first attended together on date nights and later became Theatre for Young Audiences subscribers while raising their two children. They have also been loyal subscribers for more than 20 years and Platinum Circle donors since 2017. This marks their first time serving as Honorary Producers. Through the Labowe Family Foundation, the family supports a variety of arts organizations and Jewish causes throughout Southern California. Avid theatregoers and travelers, Ken and Chantelle have long shared a love of the performing arts, which inspired their youngest daughter, who recently graduated from NYU Tisch School of Drama for Musical Theatre.

**STEPHEN G. AND REGINA OSWALD FOUNDATION** have been dedicated supporters of SCR since Regina and Steve became involved with the Gala in 2020. They have served as Gala Table Underwriters in 2023 and 2024, supported *Galilee, 34* as Playwrights Circle members and sponsored last year's inaugural Conservatory fundraiser Fun in the Sun. This marks their first time serving as Honorary Producers. Regina joined SCR Board of Trustees two years ago and is a fashion designer, wellness coach and author of recently published book *Liberation from the diet prison: A journey to Body-Mind Harmony*. Steve is an aerospace executive currently serving as Chairman, President and CEO of the NYSE listed, Ducommun Inc. and also serves on the Board of Trustees of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

including fund-raising, marketing and community relations. Her accomplishments as Managing Director of Off-Broadway's Vineyard Theatre (2017-2024) include expanding the revenue-generating

capacity of the organization, bringing on seven new board members, negotiating a two-production, industry-first producing partnership with Audible (David Cale's *Harry Clarke* and Ngozi Anyanwu's *Good Grief*), and transferring four Tony-nominated productions to Broadway. She is perhaps most proud of working with Artistic Director Sarah Stern to keep all Vineyard Theatre full-time staff employed during the COVID pandemic and developing a 2022-26 plan raising all arts worker wages. Appel joined The Vineyard after serving as Director of External Affairs for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Prior to her role at Hubbard Street, she served as Managing Director at Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco, where she nearly doubled the organization's operating budget and built a two-plus-month operating reserve in four years. She was awarded the Alfred Drake Award from Brooklyn College, an honor given to an accomplished theatre professional who has made significant contributions to the American theatre. Her previous positions include roles with Dance Theater Workshop, Yale Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Wesleyan University. Her volunteer work includes serving on the Board for Arts Orange County and South Coast Metro Alliance. Previously, she served as Chair of the Wesleyan Fund (2020-24). She is a graduate of Wesleyan University, Yale School of Drama and Yale School of Management (MFA/MBA).

**MARTIN BENSON** (*Founding Artistic Director*), (Mar. 15, 1937-Nov. 30, 2024) co-founder of SCR, directed nearly one-fifth of SCR's productions, including the 2020 production of *Outside Mullingar*. In 2008, he and David Emmes received the Margo Jones Award for their lifetime commitment to theatre excellence and fostering the art and craft of American playwriting. They also accepted SCR's 1988 Tony Award for Outstanding Resident Professional Theatre and won the 1995 Theatre LA Ovation Award for Lifetime Achievement. Benson received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Distinguished Achieve-

ment in Directing an unparalleled seven times for George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara*, *Misalliance* and *Heartbreak House*; John Millington Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*; Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*; Sally Nemeth's *Holy Days*; and the world premiere of Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit*, which he also directed at Seattle Repertory Theatre and Houston's Alley Theatre. He directed American classics such as *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and distinguished himself in staging contemporary work, including the critically acclaimed California premiere of William Nicholson's *Shadowlands*. He directed revivals of Beth Henley's *Abundance* and Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*; and Samuel D. Hunter's *The Whale and Rest* (world premiere); *The Whipping Man* by Matthew Lopez; and *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman (West Coast premiere). Benson received his BA in Theatre from San Francisco State University.

**DAVID EMMES** (*Founding Artistic Director*) is co-founder of South Coast Repertory. He received the Margo Jones Award for his lifetime commitment to theatre excellence and to fostering the art of American playwriting. In addition, he has received numerous awards for productions he has directed during his SCR career. He directed the world premieres of Amy Freed's *Safe in Hell*, *The Beard of Avon* and *Freedomland*; Thomas Babe's *Great Day in the Morning*; Keith Reddin's *Rum and Coke* and *But Not for Me*; and Neal Bell's *Cold Sweat*; the American premieres of Terry Johnson's *Unsuitable for Adults*; and Joe Penhall's *Dumb Show*; and the Southland premiere of *Top Girls* (at SCR and the Westwood Playhouse). Other productions he has directed include *Red*, *New England*, *Arcadia*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Woman in Mind* and *You Never Can Tell*, which he restaged for the Singapore Festival of Arts. He has served as a theatre panelist and onsite evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as a panelist for the California Arts Council. After attending Orange Coast College, he received his BA and MA from San Francisco State University and his PhD from USC.



This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.



The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.



The theatre is a member of Arts Orange County, the official local arts agency.



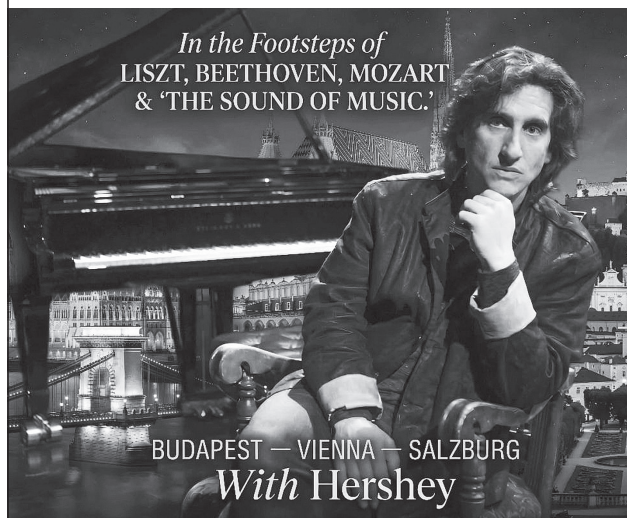
## SEE BUDAPEST, VIENNA & SALZBURG WITH HERSHEY FELDER

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DAVID IVERS AND RESIDENT DRAMATURG JERRY PATCH

SPECIAL GUEST KYM KARATH, GRETL FROM THE *SOUND OF MUSIC* FILM

**Dec. 3 – 13, 2026**

A Once-in-a-lifetime Exclusive Adventure in History, Art, Music, Culture, Family and Food



This **MAGICAL JOURNEY** is a story of music, art, history and the discovery of heritage, sharing personal experiences and a beloved historical family movie hosted by Hershey Felder and his arts partners, Jonathan Silvestri (*The Tsar*) with special guests. While many of his other artistic travels featured artists in their context – this trip is about how music and art can influence our entire lives as well as world class culinary experiences that keep us celebrating at the table for many hours together. To add to the excitement, we will be joined for the entire trip by Felder's very dear friend Kym Karath who played Gretl in *The Sound of Music* movie, hosting us on location with movie memories, backstage secrets and more!

**EXCLUSIVE PRESALE NOW THRU JULY 31**

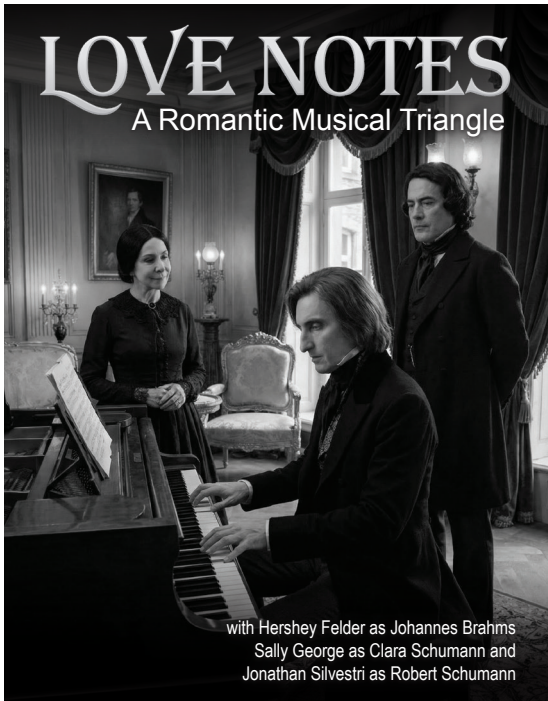
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SCR PRESENTS

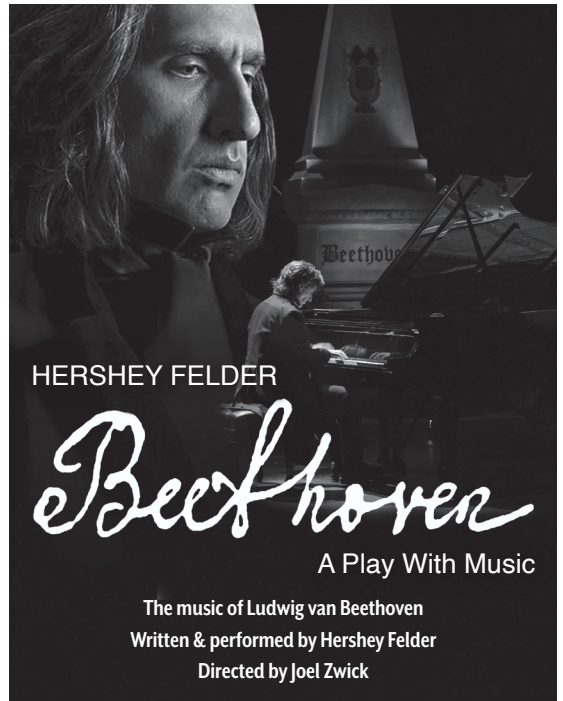
A MONTH OF  
**HERSHEY FELDER**  
JULY 2027



**JULY 6 – 18**

1853, Düsseldorf, Germany. A young Johannes Brahms steps into the orbit of musical giants, composer Robert Schumann and his wife, pianist and composer Clara Schumann. Brahms plays for the Schumanns and Robert declares him “a genius, the new Beethoven.” One year later, Robert Schumann descends into madness and commits himself to an asylum. The young lionlike Brahms remains by Clara’s side to help her and the Schumann’s seven children and falls deeply in love, yet Clara remains eternally devoted to her husband. What happens between them all is a romantic story for the ages written in sound.

With Hershey Felder as Johannes Brahms, Sally George as Clara Schumann and Jonathan Silvestri (*Rachmaninoff and the Tsar*), as Robert Schumann, *LOVE NOTES* features a story of passion, longing and love that led to the some of the most beautiful music ever composed.



**JULY 21 – AUG. 1**

Based on Dr. Gerhard von Breuning’s factual *Aus dem Schwarzspanierhaus*, Hershey Felder brings Ludwig van Beethoven to life through the eyes of the Viennese Dr. Breuning, who spent his boyhood by the maestro’s side. Featuring some of the composer’s greatest works, from the *Moonlight Sonata* and *Pathétique Sonata* to selections from the 5th and 9th Symphonies, *Hershey Felder, BEETHOVEN* is an intense, illuminating, unforgettable journey through time that immerses audiences in the astounding life of Ludwig van Beethoven.



**BUY NOW! EXCLUSIVE  
PRE-SALE NOW THRU JUNE 30.**

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