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Contact: Becky Biegelsen (619) 231-1941  
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**OLD GLOBE PRESENTS WORLD PREMIERE OF**  
**HERSHEY FELDER'S *BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM***  
**AS FIRST MOVEMENT OF HIS THRILLING**  
**"COMPOSER SONATA"**

**FELDER TO REPRIS ACCLAIMED PRODUCTIONS OF MONSIEUR CHOPIN AND**  
**GEORGE GERSHWIN ALONE IN SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS FOLLOWING BEETHOVEN**

San Diego – The Old Globe will present the world-premiere of Hershey Felder's *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* **May 3 – June 8 in the Old Globe Theatre**. This tour-de-force production is written and performed by Hershey Felder and directed by Joel Zwick. In addition, Felder will also reprise the two additional productions in his acclaimed "Composer Sonata," including *Monsieur Chopin* (**June 11 – 22**) and *George Gershwin Alone* (**June 25 – 29**), bringing to life three of the greatest composers of all time in this exciting theatrical and musical trilogy.

"Last season Hershey Felder brought Globe audiences his amazing portrayals of George Gershwin and Frédéric Chopin. Those performances were very enthusiastically received, and we are thrilled that he has chosen to premiere *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* in San Diego," said Globe Executive Producer Lou Spisto. "Hershey is truly a renaissance man – a writer, actor and accomplished musician – and only he could develop and bring to life such important and entertaining works. His trilogy of virtuoso performances will now be showcased in its entirety, with special engagements of *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* following the subscription run of *Beethoven, As I Knew Him*."

Hershey Felder's *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* is a dramatization of a little known true story as told in 1870, forty-three years after Beethoven's passing, by the person who spent a good part of the maestro's last two years by his side. With a narrative spanning several generations, Hershey Felder combines his acting, piano and musical analytical skills to bring to life the character of Ludwig van Beethoven as he existed through the eyes of one who knew him well. Featuring some of the composer's most famous works, including *The Moonlight Sonata*, *The Pathétique Sonata*, selections from Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> symphonies, the *Grosse Fugue*, as well as a movement of Beethoven's great *Emperor Concerto*, *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* is a journey through time that will bring audiences closer to the genius of the maestro Ludwig van Beethoven himself.

*Monsieur Chopin* is a celebrated work about the life and music of legendary composer, Frédéric Chopin. Audiences are invited to a private piano lesson that actually took place on March 4, 1848 in the opulent Parisian salon of the Polish maestro. As the lesson unfolds, Chopin reveals secrets about the art of the piano and composition, as well as secrets about himself in this intimate musical biography featuring Chopin's greatest works, including the *Prelude in C Minor*, *Mazurka in A Flat Major*, *Polonaise in A Major*, and his elegant *Nocturnes*. The Globe's presentation of *Monsieur Chopin* will also include the premiere of a newly-discovered cadenza in Chopin's own handwriting for his *Nocturne in E<sup>b</sup>, opus 9/2*. The cadenza was uncovered in the collection of one of his student's families, written in pencil on a first edition print of the *Nocturne* from 1834, when Chopin first started teaching in Paris.

A celebrated work about the legendary American composer, *George Gershwin Alone* is a delightful play with music that incorporates the Gershwins' best-known songs, from *The Man I Love* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*, through passages and songs from *An American in Paris* and *Porgy and Bess*, to a complete performance of *Rhapsody in Blue*. The first popular composer to use jazz as the foremost musical element in the serious concert hall, Gershwin absorbed the musical styles, rhythms and sophistication of the American spirit and created a musical language that made its mark on both classical and popular music throughout the world. Hershey Felder brings to life the spirit and talent of the legendary composer and pianist, leading audiences through the fascinating rhythms of Gershwin's legendary songbook, while telling the tale of his tragically short life.

**Hershey Felder** has performed *George Gershwin Alone* on Broadway, London's West End, The Old Globe, Ford's Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, the Geffen Theatre (2007 Los Angeles OVATION Awards: *Best Musical* and *Best Actor*), as well as at theaters in Philadelphia, Florida, and a year-long run at Chicago's Royal George Theatre. His regional and international appearances include *Monsieur Chopin* at The Old Globe, the Royal George, American Repertory Theatre, the Ravinia Festival, the Geffen Theatre and Hartford Stage, as well as a Command Performance for the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Polish Embassy, Washington and the Uijeongbu Theatre Festival, South Korea. Felder's compositions include *Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris*, Suite for Violin and Piano; *Song Settings*, poetry by Vachel Lindsay; *Aliyah*, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; *Hollywood Sweet*, for piano and orchestra; *Etudes Thematiques* for piano. Recordings include *Love Songs of the Yiddish Theatre*, *Back from Broadway*, as well as *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* for the WFMT Radio Network Recordings label. Current projects include a Negaunee Foundation Chicago composition commission, and a new musical, *Histoire D'Amour a Paris/A Paris Love Story*. Mr. Felder is on the Board of Directors of the Chicago College of Performing Arts. He has also been a Scholar in Residence at Harvard University's Department of Music. Mr. Felder is married to Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada.

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**Joel Zwick** directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time, produced by Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson and Gary Goetzman. Recent films include *Fat Albert* (with Bill Cosby), and *Elvis Has Left the Building*, starring John Corbett and Kim Basinger. Mr. Zwick directed the Broadway production of *George Gershwin Alone* at the Helen Hayes Theatre, as well as all other productions. Mr. Zwick began his theatrical career at La Mama E.T.C., as director of the La Mama Plexus. He has directed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Broadway touring companies. Currently, Mr. Zwick is recognized as Hollywood's most prolific director of episodic television, having the direction of five hundred and twenty-five episodes to his credit. These include having directed twenty-one pilots, which have gone on to become regular series. Television shows include: *Laverne & Shirley*, *Mork & Mindy*, *Bosom Buddies*, *Webster*, *Perfect Strangers*, *Full House*, *Step By Step*, *Family Matters*, *It's a Living*, *Bros. Wayans*, *Joanie Loves Chachi*, *Jamie Fox*, *Kirk*, *Parent' Hood*, *Angie*, *On Our Own*, *Two Of A Kind*, *Love Boat*, *Hangin' With Mr. Cooper*, etc. Previous 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, London). Mr. 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.

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*The internationally-acclaimed, Tony Award® -winning Old Globe is one of the most renowned regional theatres in the country and has stood as San Diego's flagship arts institution for 72 years. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 15 plays and musicals on its three stages, including its highly-regarded Shakespeare festival. The Globe has become a gathering place for leading theatre artists from around the world, such as Tom Stoppard, Daniel Sullivan and Chita Rivera, among many others. Numerous Broadway-bound premieres and revivals, such as Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, The Full Monty and Damn Yankees, have been developed at The Old Globe and have gone on to enjoy highly successful runs in New York and at regional theatres across the country.*

*Highlights of the Globe's 2007/2008 Season include the world premiere musical, A Catered Affair, written by Harvey Fierstein and John Bucchino, the West Coast Premiere of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's Oscar and the Pink Lady, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!, In This Corner, by Steven Drukman, Howard Korder's Sea of Tranquility, as well as the world-premieres of Dancing in the Dark and Beethoven, As I Knew Him. Under the leadership of CEO/Executive Producer Louis G. Spisto and Co-Artistic Directors Jerry Patch and Darko Tresnjak, the Globe is at the forefront of the nation's leading performing arts organizations, setting a standard for excellence in American theatre.*

**THE OLD GLOBE FACT SHEET**  
***BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM***

**WHAT:** *Beethoven, As I Knew Him*  
Text by Hershey Felder  
Music by Ludwig van Beethoven

**WHEN:** **May 3 – June 8 2008; Press Opening: Thursday, May 8 at 8pm**  
Performances: Sun/Tue/Wed at 7pm  
Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm  
Matinees: Sat/Sun at 2pm  
Monday, May 5 at 7pm

***Monsieur Chopin: June 11—22***  
***George Gershwin Alone: June 25—29***

**WHERE:** **Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park**

**WHO:** Director: Joel Zwick  
Scenic Design: Francois-Pierre Couture  
Lighting Design: Richard Norwood  
Sound Design: Erik Carstensen  
Costume Design: Theatr' Hall, Paris  
Projection Design: Andrew Wilder/Christopher Ash  
Production Manager/Technical Direction: Matt Marsden  
Stage Manager: GiGi Garcia

Cast: Hershey Felder: *Gerhard von Breuning/Ludwig van Beethoven*

**BACKGROUND:**

Hershey Felder's *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* is a dramatization of a little known true story as told in 1870, forty-three years after Beethoven's passing, by the person who spent a good part of the maestro's last two years by his side. With a story spanning several generations, Hershey Felder combines his acting, piano and musical analytical skills to bring to life the character of Ludwig van Beethoven as he existed through the eyes of someone who knew him well. Featuring some of the composer's most famous works, including *The Moonlight Sonata*, *The Pathetique Sonata*, selections from Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> symphonies, as well as a movement of Beethoven's great *Emperor Concerto*, *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* is a journey through time that promises to bring audiences closer to the genius of Ludwig van Beethoven.

**TICKETS:** \$47 to \$72

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