

"George Gershwin" in Conversation with Jens Hoffmann at the Jewish Museum May 31

Pianist/Playwright Hershey Felder to Portray Gershwin

New York, NY – The Jewish Museum will present *Wish You Were Here: George Gershwin* on Tuesday, May 31 at 6:30pm. Jens Hoffmann, Deputy Director, Exhibitions and Public Programs, will speak with "George Gershwin" as portrayed by pianist and playwright Hershey Felder. Felder will perform beloved Gershwin works including *Rhapsody in Blue* in its entirety, selections from *Porgy and Bess*, and Gershwin's own arrangement of 'S Wonderful and *The Man I Love*. The evening will also feature an interactive component, integrating questions and comments from Twitter and other social media platforms received in advance.

Over a period of three years, Hoffmann is interviewing the subjects of Andy Warhol's *Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century* (1980), interpreted by prominent experts, as if each were coming to the Museum to have a conversation in the present day. This is the seventh conversation in the series.

Tickets are \$15 general public; \$12 students and seniors; \$10 Jewish Museum members Further program and ticket information is available online at TheJewishMuseum.org/calendar. The Jewish Museum is located at Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, Manhattan.

Writing in *American Theatre*, Hedy Weiss said, "Hershey Felder is in a category all his own." Over the past twenty years, he has played over 4,500 performances of his self-created solo productions at some of the world's most prestigious theatres and has broken box office records consistently. 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* and *Lincoln: An American Story*. In addition, he performs concerts of "The Great American Song Book Sing-Along" at every theatre where his shows are presented. Future productions include *Tchaikovsky* (January 2017 premiere at the San Diego Rep) and the new musical, *Chosen By G-d* for which he is writing music, book and lyrics. 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*; *Salimbanques 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 very successful play with music *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* and recently produced and designed for the new musical *Louis and Keely: Live at the Sahara*, directed by Taylor Hackford. 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, the first female Prime Minister of Canada.

The Jewish Museum
1109 Fifth Avenue
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TheJewishMuseum.org

Highly regarded curator Jens Hoffmann joined the Jewish Museum in a newly created position as Deputy Director, Exhibitions and Public Programs in November 2012. Hoffmann is conceptualizing ideas and strategies for exhibitions,

acquisitions, publications, research, and public programs, drawing on his global perspective and deep knowledge of contemporary art and visual culture. Formerly Director of the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art in San Francisco from 2007 to 2012 and Director of Exhibitions and Chief Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London between 2003 and 2007, Hoffmann has organized more than 40 shows internationally since the late 1990s. Hoffmann is known for applying a multi-disciplinary approach to his curatorial practice.

This program has been funded by a donation from Lorraine and Martin Beitler who gifted *Andy Warhol's Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century* to the Jewish Museum in 2006.

Public programs are made possible by endowment support from the William Petschek Family, the Trustees of the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation, Barbara and Benjamin Zucker, the late William W. Hallo, the late Susanne Hallo Kalem, the late Ruth Hallo Landman, the Marshall M. Weinberg Fund, with additional support from Marshall M. Weinberg, the Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Foundation, the Saul and Harriet M. Rothkopf Family Foundation, and Ellen Liman. Additional support is provided by Lorraine and Martin Beitler, the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations, Genesis Philanthropy Group, and through public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

About the Jewish Museum

Located on Museum Mile at Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street, the Jewish Museum is one of the world's preeminent institutions devoted to exploring art and Jewish culture from ancient to contemporary, offering intellectually engaging, educational, and provocative exhibitions and programs for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum was established in 1904, when Judge Mayer Sulzberger donated 26 ceremonial objects to The Jewish Theological Seminary as the core of a museum collection. Today, the Museum maintains a collection of over 30,000 works of art, artifacts, and broadcast media reflecting global Jewish identity, and presents a diverse schedule of internationally acclaimed temporary exhibitions.

The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, New York City. Museum hours are Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, 11am to 5:45pm; Thursday, 11am to 8pm; and Friday, 11am to 4pm. Museum admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for senior citizens, \$7.50 for students, free for visitors 18 and under and Jewish Museum members. Admission is Pay What You Wish on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm and free on Saturdays. For information on the Jewish Museum, the public may call 212.423.3200 or visit the website at TheJewishMuseum.org.

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