

Enhancing the Experience



Hershey Felder



Ory Shihor

Los Angeles-based pianist Ory Shihor has collaborated with The Wallis-favorite Hershey Felder on *Last Thoughts: Schubert's Final Works*, an evening of music and storytelling.

The Wallis Post spoke with both artists.

POST: How did you two first meet?

HERSHEY: I met Ory years ago in Los Angeles through musical friends in common. He was just beginning his career in these parts and to me it was clear that he was a supremely talented and serious thinking artist. He's proven all that and then some.

POST: How did your collaboration begin?

ORY: The idea of featuring text in a musical performance intrigued me ever since I saw *Gershwin Alone* for the first time and was quite taken by it. We discussed it back then a bit, but it wasn't until more recently, after sharing with Hershey how close I feel to Schubert's piano music, that the conversation 'zeroed in' on an all-Schubert program and how interesting it would be to combine it with spoken words. Hershey miraculously agreed to write the text, and here we are!

POST: What is the origin of your affinity for Schubert, Ory?

ORY: Schubert was always the composer I felt closest to since the first time I heard his music which was when I was 10 or so. My mother, who listened to classical music perpetually while she worked, had an LP of the impromptu and I was immediately drawn in by the music. It felt like 'home' to me. The music was so descriptive – it immediately told me a story that was oddly familiar yet strangely comforting to me.

POST: How is your work on *Last Thoughts* going?

HERSHEY: Ory is so smart and observant. He has a remarkable memory for minutiae, even remembering various aspects of performances of mine over the years. Things that I myself had forgotten.

ORY: I feel that the juxtaposition of music and text will enhance the entire performing experience for me and the audience, making the concert seem more 'complete' and natural.

POST: We can't wait until January 20th. Hershey, what else are you up to?

HERSHEY: I've got a full season ahead: Berlin, Tchaikovsky, a new piece about Debussy and of course *Beethoven*, which opened last year and will be coming to The Wallis this summer. I am very excited to be back with the wonderful acoustic in that marvelously elegant theater for my LA audiences, who have been there right from the very beginning of my more than two decade career.

Last Thoughts: Schubert's Final Works plays Saturday, January 20.

This performance is made possible in part by the generous support of Camille and Arnon Adar.

Hershey Felder: *Beethoven* begins performances July 27, 2018.