FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCLAIMED SHOW HERSHEY FELDER AS IRVING BERLIN COMES TO BERKELEY REP

Tickets available exclusively to 2016-17 season subscribers starting August 25

Berkeley, CA. (August 24, 2016) — The story and music of America’s Composer come to life on stage when Berkeley Repertory Theatre stages a special presentation of Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin, a play-with-music written and performed by award-winning actor and musician Hershey Felder (George Gershwin Alone, Hershey Felder as Leonard Bernstein in Maestro). Directed by Trevor Hay, Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin will play Tuesday, April 4 – Sunday, April 30, 2017. Subscribers to Berkeley Rep’s 2016-17 season can purchase individual tickets starting Thursday, August 25 online at berkeleyrep.org or by phone, 510 647-2949. Tickets will be available to the general public at a date later to be announced.

Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin, which has previously played to rave reviews and broken box office records at Los Angeles’ Geffen Playhouse, Chicago’s Royal George Theatre, the La Jolla Playhouse, Boston’s Majestic Theatre, and New York’s Town Hall, will also have future engagements planned throughout the United States. David C. Nichols of The Los Angeles Times wrote “that indefatigable purveyor of composers, Hershey Felder, applies his singular blend of musical biography, character study and piano virtuosity toward the iconic songwriter. The empathy, showmanship and craft on tap may just be the best match of historical figure and performing artist yet.” Chris Jones, writing in The Chicago Tribune, raved, “Felder is the impresario whose relationship with audiences is long-standing, intimate and mutually adoring.”

Internationally acclaimed virtuoso pianist Hershey Felder wowed Berkeley Rep audiences in recent seasons with his soaring portraits of composers like Bernstein, Chopin, and Gershwin. Now he’s back with the inspiring story of “America’s Composer” in a tour-de-force performance. From Czarist Russia to New York’s Lower East Side, Irving Berlin’s story epitomizes the American Dream. Featuring the composer’s most popular and enduring songs, including “Blue Skies,” “God Bless America,” “Puttin’ on the Ritz,” “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” “White Christmas,” and more, Felder’s signature creation of character and musical performance will make this evening with Irving Berlin an unforgettable journey.

Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin features scenic design by Felder and Hay, lighting design by Richard Norwood, projection design by Christopher Ash and Lawrence Siefert, and sound design/production management by Erik Carstensen. The show is produced by Eva Price, Samantha F. Voxakis, and Karen Racanelli.

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HERSHEY FELDER (Irving Berlin/playwright/scenic design) Writing in American Theatre, Hedy Weiss said, “Hershey Felder is in a category all his own.” Over the past 20 years he has played over 4,500 performances of his self-created solo productions at the 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 Songbook Sing-Along” at every theatre where his shows are presented. Future productions include Tchaikovsky (January 2017 premiere at San Diego Repertory Theatre) and the new musical Chosen By God, for which he is writing music, book, and lyrics. His compositions and recordings include Aliyah, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra; Fairytales, a musical; Les Anges de Paris, Suite for Violin and Piano; Song Settings; Saltimbanques 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 he is the producer and designer for the 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.

TREVOR HAY (Director/scenic co-design) directed the world premieres of An American Story for Actor and Orchestra, Abe Lincoln’s Piano, and Hershey Felder as Franz Liszt in Musik. He is associate director for Mona Golabek’s The Pianist of Willesden Lane and a former member of the historic Old Globe Theatre in San Diego where, at the age of 9, his first position was selling Old Globe memorabilia. Over the next 32 years, Hay went on to various aspects of production on more than 80 presentations, including the Broadway productions of Jack O’Brien’s Damn Yankees, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and Twyla Tharpe’s The Times They Are A-Changin’. Included in his 23 seasons at the Old Globe were 11 seasons of the Summer Shakespeare Festival Repertory, as well as work on Tracy Letts’ August: Osage County, directed by Sam Gold, and Hershey Felder’s George Gershwin Alone, Monsieur Chopin, and Maestro Bernstein.

ABOUT BERKELEY REP
Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. In four decades, four million people have enjoyed nearly 400 shows at Berkeley Rep. These shows have gone on to win five Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, and many other honors. In recognition of its place on the national stage, Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997. Its bustling facilities – which include the 400-seat Peet’s Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, the Osher Studio, and a spacious new campus in West Berkeley – are helping revitalize a renowned city. Learn more at berkeleyrep.org

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