

Kirsten Johnson was born in Virginia, U.S.A., the daughter of a U.S. Marine who was serving in Vietnam. Her mother was a nurse, and the family was not particularly musical. From this inauspicious beginning she has built a world-class career as a concert pianist, chamber musician and recording artist. Kirsten now holds dual U.S./U.K. citizenship and resides in Oxford.

Kirsten's first lessons were at the Yamaha Music School in Oceanside, CA. Her family did not have a piano at home, so she practised on her mother's accordion, laid flat on the dining room table. She much preferred learning piano to the other alternatives on offer, ballet and gymnastics.

Kirsten is an authority on the music of Amy Beach. She has recorded two albums of piano music by this revered American composer, including world premiere tracks. Kirsten's career was established by her ground-breaking work on Albanian piano music. She made this the subject of her Doctoral Dissertation (Doctor of Musical Arts, Kansas City, Missouri, 1997). Kirsten's first foray to Albania was during her year as a Rotary International Foundation Scholar in Vienna (1993). Kirsten has also recorded the complete works of Heinrich Schulz-Beuthen, and music by Hermann Goetz. Kirsten brings to the keyboard an amazing technique, a honed intellect and a natural musicianship that enables her to transcend the printed page and bring scores to life.

More information on Kirsten's playing is available on www.kirstenjohnsonpiano.com