

Kirsten Johnson is a piano explorer – she has made her name recording undiscovered corners of the classical piano repertoire. A highly skilled pianist with great musical depth, Kirsten has made many world premiere recordings and has received rave reviews internationally. Her first disc, **Këngë: Albanian Piano Music**, had the critics marvelling, 'Johnson plays with nuance and color; the recording is rich and resonant.' (American Record Guide) 'Johnson expounds all this repertoire with manifest sympathy and skill. An unexpected delight.' (BBC Music Magazine).

Kirsten subsequently recorded another disc of Albanian music, **Rapsodi: Albanian Piano Music, Vol. II**, and music by Heinrich Schulz-Beuthen (1838-1915) and Hermann Goetz (1840-1876). Following these projects, Kirsten spent several years researching and recording the complete piano oeuvre of Amy Beach (1867 – 1944), esteemed American composer, in four volumes. The second disc, **Amy Beach Piano Music: The Turn of the Century**, was chosen as Recording of the Year by Music Web International in 2009: 'There are two sharp intellects at work here, that of the composer and the pianist Kirsten Johnson, and together they produce music of astonishing range and subtlety.' Kirsten's Amy Beach recordings include many world premiere tracks and have been lauded around the world, "I could listen to this album over and over....Kirsten Johnson is on top of this music in a big way." Audiophile Audition November 2011.

Kirsten Johnson was born in Virginia, USA, but now resides in Oxford, England. As a concert performer she has wide-ranging musical interests and a large repertoire of pieces spanning four centuries of keyboard music. Kirsten graduated summa cum laude from Evangel University, Missouri, USA, at the age of nineteen with a Bachelor of Music in piano performance. After receiving her Master of Music degree from the University of North Texas under a Teaching Fellowship in Piano, she studied in Vienna at the Hochschule für Musik as a Rotary International Foundation Scholar. She completed her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, having been awarded a Kemper Doctoral Fellowship. Dr. Johnson built her repertoire and explored the music of Alkan in her post-doctoral studies in England with the late Ronald Smith.

In 2013, Kirsten produced and recorded the complete piano music of Arthur Foote (1853-1937) for Delos. This three-CD box set has heightened international interest in this American composer: 'My God! What fantastic piano music this is!It's perhaps the year's most exciting piano music discovery.' (in Germany: Crescendo, Dec.2013/Jan. 2014). The US press has also showered accolades: 'Foote has a worthy champion in Kirsten Johnson, whose lovely sound and exquisite phrasing allow her to quickly locate the lyrical heart of a melody and invest it with pure streams of colour.' (Gramophone, January 2014).

Kirsten has also recorded two discs of Dmitri Kabalevsky's solo piano music for Nimbus, including the world premiere recording of Kabalevsky's Opus 1, *Three Preludes for Piano*. **Patriotic Piano**, a compilation of classical music based on American patriotic melodies, was released by Centaur in 2017. As a result of research for that project, Kirsten decided to record **James Hewitt: Complete Works for Piano**, a four-CD box set released by Centaur in March 2020.

For more information visit www.kirstenjohnsonpiano.com.