

Kirsten Johnson is a piano explorer – she has made her name recording undiscovered corners of the classical piano repertoire and has received rave reviews internationally for her world premiere recordings.

Kirsten Johnson is also a composer – she has had success in recent years with pieces performed in Oxford, London, New York and Brussels.

Kirsten's 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 two discs of 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)

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.*' (Crescendo, German music magazine). 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 color.*' (Gramophone)

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.

Kirsten's compositions have been played around the world. **Brno**, for cello and piano, was performed at the Festival OSMOSE in Brussels in December 2016. **Flute Vibes** was premiered in Oxford, U.K. in 2015. The premiere of **Remembrance, Journey and Dance** (in a version for clarinet, bassoon and piano) was given in New York City in April 2017; **Union/Disunion**, on the UK's leaving of the EU, in London in 2017.

Kirsten earned her Bachelor of Music at Evangel University, Missouri, USA; her Master of Music in piano performance from the University of North Texas; and her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of

Missouri-Kansas City under a Kemper Doctoral Fellowship. She studied in Vienna, Austria, at the Hochschule für Musik, having been awarded a Rotary International Foundation Scholarship, and later in England with pianist and Alkan expert Ronald Smith, FRAM.

Dr. Johnson is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, [thersa.org](https://www.thersa.org); a Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, [ism.org](https://www.ism.org); and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fragile X Society, a U.K. charity, www.fragilex.org.uk.

For more information on Kirsten's music and recordings, please visit www.kirstenjohnsonpiano.com.