

Kirsten Johnson is a pianist, composer and recording artist of international acclaim. She has recorded 22 discs of solo piano music with Centaur, Nimbus, Delos and Guild. This includes the complete piano music of Benjamin Carr, Arthur Foote, James Hewitt and Amy Beach, and world premiere recordings of Albanian piano music and Dmitri Kabalevsky's op. 1.

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 2020. Her latest piano recording is of another early American composer, Benjamin Carr (1768-1831). Four discs of his piano music is found on **Benjamin Carr, Piano Music**, released by Centaur in 2021.

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. In 2020 she had two pieces, *Being* for clarinet and *Expression No. 1* for piano, premiered by The Boston New Music Initiative. *Elegy*, for piano trio, is to be premiered in Belgium in June 2021.

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](https://www.fragilex.org.uk).

For more information on Kirsten's music and recordings, please visit [www.kirstenjohnsonpiano.com](https://www.kirstenjohnsonpiano.com).