



Fred Hersch, piano

Program

Mr. Hersch will announce his selections from the stage.



Proclaimed by *Vanity Fair* magazine, “the most arrestingly innovative pianist in jazz over the last decade or so,” Fred Hersch balances his internationally recognized instrumental skills with significant achievements as a composer, band-leader, and theatrical conceptualist, as well as remaining an in-demand collaborator with other noted bandleaders and vocalists. As a solo pianist (he was the first artist in the 75-year history of New York’s legendary Village Vanguard to play week-long engagements as a solo pianist – his second featured run is documented on the 2011 release, *Alone at the Vanguard*); as leader of a widely praised trio whose *Whirl* found its way onto numerous 2010 best-recordings-of-the-year lists; and as the impetus behind the ambitious 2011 production, “My Coma Dreams,” a full-evening work for 11

instruments, actor/singer and animation/multimedia – Mr. Hersch has fully lived up to the approbation of the *New York Times* who, in a featured Sunday Magazine article, praised him as “singular among the trailblazers of their art, a largely unsung innovator of this borderless, individualistic jazz – a jazz for the 21st century.” He is nominated for two 2012 Grammy® Awards for *Alone at the Vanguard* – for Best Jazz Album and Best Improvised Jazz Solo; these are his fourth and fifth nominations.

In addition to his more than three-dozen recordings as a leader/co-leader, his numerous awards include a 2003 Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship for composition, and a Grammy® nomination for Best Instrumental Composition, as well as two Grammy® nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Performance. Mr. Hersch has featured himself as either a solo performer or at the helm of varied small ensembles, which in addition to his trio, include a quintet, as well as his “Pocket Orchestra” featuring an unconventional line-up of piano, trumpet, voice, and percussion. Mr. Hersch is considered to be the most prolific and celebrated solo jazz pianist of his generation. In 2006, Palmetto released the solo CD *Fred Hersch in Amsterdam: Live at the Bimhuis* and 2009 welcomed his eighth solo disc, *Fred Hersch Plays Jobim*, cited as one of the year’s Top Ten jazz releases by NPR and the Wall Street Journal. *Alone* won the “Coup de Coeur” de l’Académie Charles Cros in France and 2011 also saw Mr. Hersch place 4th in the Downbeat Critic’s Poll and win as Jazz Pianist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association.

Mr. Hersch’s career as a performer has been greatly enhanced by his composing activities, a vital part of nearly all of his live concerts and recordings. In 2003, Mr. Hersch created *Leaves of Grass* (Palmetto Records), a large-scale setting of Walt Whitman’s poetry for two voices (Kurt Elling and Kate McGarry) and an instrumental octet; the work was presented in March 2005 in a sold-out performance at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall as part of a six-city US tour. More than 70 of his jazz compositions have been recorded by Mr. Hersch and by numerous other artists.

Continued on reverse side

Friday, February 3, 2012

8:00 p.m.

Chapin Hall

Williamstown, Massachusetts

*Please turn off or mute cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

Mr. Hersch has collaborated with an astonishing range of instrumentalists and vocalists throughout worlds of jazz (Joe Henderson, Charlie Haden, Art Farmer, Stan Getz, and Bill Frisell); classical (Renée Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Christopher O’Riley); and Broadway (Audra McDonald). Long admired for his sympathetic work with singers, Mr. Hersch has joined with such notable jazz vocalists as Nancy King, Norma Winstone, and Kurt Elling. He has received commissions from The Gilmore Keyboard Festival, The Doris Duke Foundation, The Miller Theatre at Columbia University, The Gramercy Trio, and The Brooklyn Youth Chorus. A disc of his through-composed works, *Fred Hersch: Concert Music 2001-2006*, has been released by Naxos Records; these works are published by the prestigious firm Edition Peters.

He has been awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship, grants from Chamber Music America, The National Endowment for the Arts, and Meet the Composer, and seven composition residencies at The MacDowell Colony. In addition to a wide variety of National Public Radio programs including *Fresh Air*, *Jazz Set*, *Studio 360*, and *Marian McPartland’s Piano Jazz*, Mr. Hersch has also appeared on *CBS Sunday Morning* with Dr. Billy Taylor. A committed educator, Mr. Hersch has taught at The New School and Manhattan School of Music, and conducted a Professional Training Workshop for Young Musicians at The Weill Institute at Carnegie Hall in 2008. He is currently a visiting professor at Western Michigan University and on the Jazz Studies faculty of The New England Conservatory.

A passionate spokesman and fund-raiser for AIDS services and education agencies since 1993, Mr. Hersch has produced and performed on four benefit recordings and in numerous concerts for charities including Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS that have raised over \$250,000 to date. He has also been the keynote speaker and performer at international medical conferences in the U.S. and Europe.

www.fredhersch.com

Upcoming Events:

See music.williams.edu for full details and to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

12/8	7:00pm	Berkshire Soloist Pre-Competition Recital #1	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
2/10	8:00pm	Williams Chamber Players	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
2/12	3:00pm	Berkshire Soloist Pre-Competition Recital #2	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
2/15	6:00pm	Berkshire Symphony Soloist Competition	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
2/24	8:00pm	Zambezi Dance Party	'62 Center, CenterStage **
2/25	2:00pm	Zambezi Dance Party	'62 Center, CenterStage **
2/29	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
3/2	8:00pm	Berkshire Symphony	Chapin Hall
	7:15pm	<i>Pre-Concert Talk</i>	<i>Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall</i>
3/7	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
3/8	4:15pm	Music From China Workshop	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
3/8	8:00pm	Visiting Artist: Music From China	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
3/10	8:00pm	Williams Chamber Players	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
3/14	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
4/4	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
4/11	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall
4/12	7:00pm	Student Recital: Holly Crane '12	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
4/13	8:00pm	Berkshire Symphony: Soloists Gala	Chapin Hall
	7:30pm	<i>Pre-Concert Talk</i>	<i>Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall</i>
4/14	2:00pm	Piano Master Class: Simone Dinnerstein	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall