

# { open book }

Fred Hersch, solo piano

“This is a recording that makes it seem as though Fred Hersch is the finest jazz pianist in the world. That’s an impossible assertion, of course. There are a dozen, maybe more pianists who have achieved this level of artistry. But for now, with ‘Open Book’, he can wear that title.” 5\*\*\*\*\* -Dan McClenaghan, All About Jazz

“Seemingly contrapuntal and contrary exchanges of left and right hand, tenderly emerging climaxes and the feeling that he is always whispering in your ear are a few of the major attractions of this captivating set...a pianist at the height of his powers.”  
-Selwyn Harris, Jazzwise (UK)

“‘Open Book’ shows an artist at the height of his creative power without a sign of slacking off. It’s one of those albums that sounds good any time of day, early in the morning with the birds singing outside your window or late at night as you relax after a long day. No Matter when you listen, this is quite a good ‘book’”. -Richard Kamins, Steptempest

"...a tour de force of solo piano playing." - Pierre Giroux, Audiophile Audition

“Most everything in Fred Hersch’s oeuvre has always miraculously existed as slow read and page-turner all at once. The many phrases, songs and albums from the mind of this highly expressive pianist-composer have been something to really take time with, to be savored and appreciated for their beauty and depth of creative thought. “Open Book’ serves as a fine companion piece to go with Hersch’s memoir, but it’s a work that also stands alone, apart and aloft without issue. This is another five-star find from one of jazz’s greatest treasures”. -Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz

# { open book }

Fred Hersch, solo piano

“The centerpiece of the album is an almost 20-minute stream-of-consciousness improvisation, “Through The Forest”, made completely compelling by Fred’s intelligent weaving of multiple musical strands and techniques into a narrative that holds the piece together into a cohesive whole. It is comparable to Keith Jarrett’s famous solo piano concerts, but Fred seems more focused than even Keith was, as dramatic passages alternated with knuckled clusters in a constantly unfolding panorama.” -George Kanzler, Hot House

“After Keith Jarrett, Fred Hersch is our leading exponent of solo jazz piano. The secret to Hersch’s work is that he does not fundamentally alter his engagement with the instrument. Understanding that the piano’s essence is to sing, he remains quintessentially, lyrically pianistic. Hersch’s touch with melody is extraordinary.” -Thomas Conrad, Stereophile

“It would be interesting to know how many truly great jazz pianists are alive at any given time. But I’ll say this: you could tighten the criteria until you have excluded all but ten, and Fred Hersch would still be among the. In fact, I’d suggest that he’s possibly one of the top five. His latest album is a solo excursion, perhaps the most deeply personal and introspective of any he has made yet. All of it is exquisite.” -Rick Anderson, CD Hotlist

"This is the work of a real artist examining his art and laying himself bare in the musical process. Solo piano music that forces you to lean in, put this up there with genre classics." - Chris Spector, Midwest Record

"Profoundly expressive and technically astounding..." - Mel Minter, Musically Speaking

# { open book }

Fred Hersch, solo piano

“Hersch is the musician’s musician, a deep and thoughtful artist who strikes that elusive balance between soul and skill every time he touches the keyboard. This magnificent solo recording is aptly named, a revelatory experience, almost indecent in its emotional truth, and proof - if it were needed - that music, particularly in the hands of a poet like Hersch, can express what words cannot even approach.” -5\*\*\*\* Cormac Larkin, The Irish Times

An album so free in emotions, from lyrical to strong and dissonant, that you as a listener are emotionally completely blown away. With his fabulous technique as a base, Hersch, on Open Book, knows how to create a musical world that's so intense and emotional that he'll let you forget the messy world outside.”  
5\*\*\*\* Dick Hovenga, Written In Music (Belgium)

"Through the Forest" is an almost 20 minute spontaneous improvisation, played at a point where he was unusually exhausted, and allowed himself to totally give in to the moment, and let the ideas flow as they came. It is the centerpiece of an exceptional album, one that definitively demonstrates the singular genius possessed by Fred Hersch.”  
-Joe Lang, Jersey Jazz

“The closing track is Billy Joel’s tender ballad, ‘And So It Goes’, and while I’ve heard many renditions of this song, I don’t recall one that touched me as much as this one. The passion Hersch injects into this powerful song shows why he is one of jazz’s most treasured performers.” -Thomas Cuniffe, Jazz History Online

“Pianist Fred Hersch personalizes everything he plays, investing deep emotion into his inventive interpretations of standards, pop tunes or whatever he turns his hand to, displaying a jaunty virtuosity that simultaneously delights and inspires awe.” -Jazziz