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Acclaim for **Fred Hersch Trio – *Alive at the Vanguard***

“An elegant force of musical invention, Fred Hersch can not be discounted in any discussion of the top contemporary jazz pianists." – Chris Barton, LA Times

4.5 stars. “Hersch was renowned for his incisive emotionality long before his own life took such a dramatic turn, and in Hébert and McPherson he’s found one of the finest units to flesh out his own profoundly lyrical explorations.” – Shaun Brady, DownBeat Magazine

“…One of the major ensembles of our times.” – Will Friedwald, The Wall Street Journal

"The unfalteringly elegant jazz pianist Fred Hersch has recorded worthwhile albums at the Village Vanguard before, and his latest - "Alive at the Vanguard," a two-CD set recorded in February and released on Palmetto - chronicles an especially strong engagement by his trio with the drummer Eric McPherson and the bassist John Hébert." – Nate Chinen, The New York Times

“After all the elegance and effortless mastery he’s exhibited through the years, pianist Fred Hersch still finds ways to sound fresh… The subtle stylistic variety of these performances makes every minute enjoyable… Few other contemporary musicians have been as consistently satisfying over such a long period as Hersch.” – John Frederick Moore, Jazziz Magazine

“One of the best recordings of a prolific career… The music bristles with a spirit of invention, its substantive harmonic content giving weight to the proceedings, while Hersch’s mercurial interactions with bassist John Hébert and drummer Eric McPherson keep listeners on edge.” – Howard Reich, Chicago Tribune

“It is audacious and extravagant… The title of this album, and the vital music it contains, must be understood as his ringing, joyous, belligerent celebration of the miraculous fact that he is, in every sense, *alive*.” – Tom Conrad, JazzTimes Magazine

Five stars. “This trio set is something else, a fact recognized by Hersch, who regards it as possibly his ‘best trio playing on record.’ He’s right, for it is extraordinarily good.” – Simon Adams, Jazz Journal Magazine

“Combines lyricism, brainy improvisation, sensitive interplay, and purring propulsion, adding up to one of the finest piano trios of our day.” – June Wulff, Boston Globe

“More impressive still, the albums Hersch has made since 2010 match the sterling quality of his best previous recorded works. Now, as then, his music combines grace and fire, intimacy and intensity, with a penchant for in-the-moment daring and an impressive command of myriad jazz and classical-music traditions.” – George Varga, San Diego Union-Tribune

“Hersch’s ostensibly conservative approach is rooted in song-based jazz-piano conventions, but his fluency and intelligence keep reiterating that his is a music of the moment, not the past. Hébert and the quietly compatible McPherson often drop into the shadows behind the contrapuntally-jostling flow of the pianist’s fast improvisations. However, they also purr and flutter with attentive delicacy.” – John Fordham, Guardian UK

“A scintillating new double-disc set.” – Hank Shteamer, Time Out New York

Four stars. “There’s enough here on these two CDs to keep an attentive listener busy for days on end and still the hugeness of Hersch’s achievement would not be charted… A wonderful album, just wonderful.” – Stephen Graham, Jazzwise Magazine

“Delicacy is one of the pianist’s calling cards, especially in his original compositions… [But] it’s not the only card in his deck.” – Michael West, Washington Post

“This stunning double album documents the quick-thinking, ultrasensitive give-and-take among pianist Hersch, bassist John Hebert and drummer Eric McPherson, live at the Village Vanguard. Jazz trio work doesn't come much more empathetic than this.” – Howard Reich, The Chicago Tribune (Best Jazz CDs of 2012)

"Fred Hersch, one of the poet laureates of modern jazz piano, has also proven to be one of the most durable and forward-moving of any artist, on any arts scene." – Andrea Canter, Jazz Police

#3 Jazz album of 2012. “No living jazz pianist is so adept at stretching and compressing the pace of a musical passage or at immersing himself, and us, into a song so fully.” – Fred Kaplan, Slate.com

“Hersch reaches some rarefied heights on this wise trio recording.” – Karl Stark, Philadelphia Inquirer

“Hersch’s music is as demanding and distinctive as ever – he clearly trusts the intuitive rapport of this band, and they all belie the polished surfaces of their performances with quicksilver spontaneity… Hébert, Hersch, and McPherson consistently push and pull on the sturdy architecture of each piece – and each time one player tosses in an improvised gesture, the others react instantaneously to keep everything in sync. This not only creates a wonderful tension but also gives you the exciting feeling that, from one moment to the next, almost anything could happen” – Peter Margasak, Chicago Reader

Four stars. “…a poet of the keyboard with an unerring ability to get inside a tune and reveal its secrets… a supremely gifted trio in full and joyous flight, attuned to every nuance in the music, conscious of, but not constrained by, the ghosts that haunt the stage." – Cormac Larkin, Irish Times

4.5 stars. “Put simply, the mantle of the late Bill Evans – that master of romantic-but-not-soppy lyricism and conciseness – has an heir in Hersch.” – Mark Keresman, ICON Magazine

"Alive at the Vanguard…is a powerful reminder of why Hersch stands among the truly elevated artists in modern music. If you want a working definition of the jazz piano trio, circa early 21st century, start here." – Neil Tesser, Chicago Examiner

“This music is alive: fire-breathing with adventure, dance, spirits of all sorts.” – Fred Kaplan, Stereophile

“The unique camaraderie and high caliber musicianship of the artists make this double album spanning almost two hours captivating and strangely addictive.” – Hrayr Attarian, All About Jazz

“An affirmation of, and allusion to, how alive, physically and musically, Hersch is, four years after he spent months in a coma… While Hersch is definitely in command, conceptually and musically, the players combine so effortlessly and gracefully that the music achieves a truly rare apotheosis which we hear as a unified whole.” – George Kanzler, Hot House Magazine

"In this glowing collaboration with John Hébert on bass and Eric McPherson on drums, the artists feel every note and beat in a glorious harmony of spirit. Hersch is, quite simply, an astonishing pianist." – Janelle Gelfand, The Cincinnati Enquirer

“Vibrant, spontaneous and filled with varied emotions, Hersch’s latest recording captures the sound of a great artist, alive, well, and striving.” – Peter Hum, Ottawa Citizen

“Fred Hersch is America’s finest living jazz pianist.” – Rick Anderson, CD HotList

"A superb statement from one of the most respected pianists in jazz." – Matthew Kessel, New York City Jazz Record

“Everything here is consummately thought out and in the moment: arguably the best piano jazz album of 2012.” – Alan Young, Lucid Culture

“Pianist Fred Hersch, who is approaching legendary status in the jazz world for his imaginative prowess-from reinventing jazz standards to creating originals destined to be standards.” – Tucson Explorer News

“Hersch, a particularly self-sufficient player, tends to be pretty well-suited to the ‘alone’ format: his playing is ornate, baroque and propulsive, like Oscar Peterson’s or Erroll Garner’s. His small group recordings increasingly demonstrate his capacity to make room in his whirlwind of notes for other musicians.” – Jeff Dayton-Johnson, All About Jazz

"Hersch is simply one of the most resourceful, sensitive and versatile jazz pianists on the planet." – London Jazz Review

“Hersch has released other live recordings from the Vanguard, but this one is special enough to invite comparison with Bill Evans’ fabled dates there. The music is playful, mysterious, grand and reflective. And Hersch has never sounded so inspired.” – Nick Bewsey, Jazz in Space

“”Might be Hersch’s finest live work yet in this most magical of club settings (and that’s acknowledging that last year’s solo recording in the same space set the bar ridiculously high)… It’s a threesome that has settled into that kind of acrobatic trust where each can follow the others’ subtlest twist or turn.” – Peter Bacon, The Jazz Breakfast

“Captures the trio in a rhythmic and harmonic mind-meld that showcases Hersch’s considerable compositional skills as well as his flawless ability to interpret Jazz classics and the Great American Songbook.” – Mike Breen, Cincinnati City Beat

"Alive is actually Hersch's third recording from the Vanguard, following Live (2003) and Alone (2011). It's quite evident that when the pianist descends those well-traveled stairs into the Vanguard, magic happens…it´s pure Hersch at his brilliant best." – Scott Albin, Jazz Times

"Hersch's music bristles with crisp interplay, is ripe with fine flights of melodic invention and displays the depth as well as the breadth of Hersch's musical mind. This is music that resonates long after the applause has dies down; this is music that is both exciting and soul-satisfying." – Richard Kamins, Step Tempest

"Fred Hersch is a jazz pianist without comparison." – Times Herald-Record