#

**Fred Hersch**

***Breath by Breath***

“An amazingly satisfying listening experience. Many jazz-meets-classical projects have come out in recent months, and what places Hersch at the forefront of this particular trend is his singular vision of presenting something of depth, all the while displaying a quintessential mastery of both the piano and composition… a high-level melding of jazz and classical elements, one that seems easy, natural and full of life…These compositions masterfully transform the two groups into one, and together they build a musical universe that’s different from anything else on the scene today.” – Frank Alkyer, DownBeat

“Exquisite.” – Nate Chinen, WBGO

“4-stars.... a refreshingly broad concept album… Hersch is not an artist who demands the limelight – rather, it is by quietly and generously leading his fellow musicians that he shines brightest… *Breath by Breath*...encourages us to listen intently. It may be a slow burner, but to borrow the name of Hersch’s 2017 memoir, good things happen slowly.” – Tina Edwards, The Telegraph

“It’s little wonder that *Breath by Breath*...is shaded in tender colors. The work emanates from a pianist who prizes lyricism and contemplative improvisation, and whose compositions are often touched by that same assiduousness.... resisting the discreet beauty of such polished gems as ‘Rising, Falling’ and the title track is futile.” – Steve Futterman, The New Yorker

“4-stars. The American pianist and composer Fred Hersch’s opulent reworkings of the standard repertoire range from Johnny Mandel to Thelonious Monk, and his original work is of equal rigour and appeal... Hersch’s glossy technique, emotional focus and sharp aesthetic sense make him a singular and influential solo musician. *Breath by Breath*, showcasing Hersch the composer, is the first of his more than 50 recordings to combine a Hersch piano trio with a quartet of strings.... The trio are lively and tight-knit...and the improvised and pre-composed sections are impressively balanced.” – Mike Hobart, Financial Times

“4-stars. Fred Hersch has reached a level of eminence among jazz pianists that makes everything he does important…The album sounds measured, graceful, meticulously detailed, and melodic … If one purpose of meditation is to transcend distraction and remain in the present, the music aligns with this quest. It is patient, proportional, understated, and complete in itself…. The album occupies a special niche in Hersch’s distinguished discography,” – Thomas Conrad, Stereophile

“4 ½ stars...What sets *Breath by Breath* apart is not that he uses a string quartet on record for the first time. It is instead the complete ease and mastery with which he integrates the strings into a very tight ensemble concept. This is gorgeous string writing.” – John Chacona, All About Jazz

“An impressively engaging new disc from a master.” – Steve Feeney, ArtsFuse

“... delves deep into the art of awareness.” – Dan Bilawsky, New York City Jazz Record

“A perfect marriage between jazz impressionism and chamber melodicism.” – Elio Bussolino, Rockerilla

“Incomparable.” – Reinhard Köchl, Augsburger Allgemeine

“Highly recommended … spontaneity and depth.” -- Sandro Cerini, Musica Jazz

“The prolific pianist/composer's technical prowess throughout this LP is as impeccable as the string players' and the rhythm section's. Yet what may be more impressive still is the fluidity by which all those participating interact: none abandon a sense of play for the sake of mere exactitude.” – Doug Collette, All About Jazz

“Without a doubt, Fred Hersch’s album, *Breath by Breath*, is another one of his major accomplishments." – Bill Donaldson, ARSTASH

“This is music for careful listening.” – Jean-Claude Vantroyen, MAD Brussels

“A completely successful dialogue between jazz trio and strings.” – Claude Laxhay, Jazz Halo

“A beautiful record of lush melodics and serene atmosphere, with appeal beyond either jazz fans or meditation fans.” – Michael Toland, The Big Takeover

“Yet another triumph for Fred Hersch. With his Trio and the string quartet, one can fall into this music from the opening notes to the very end. For the avid listener, the reward is that you can go back time and again because these songs are so melodic and the arrangements so intelligent.” – Richard Kamins, StepTempest

“Perfect and complete.” – Phontas Troussas, Vinyl Mine

“...the kind of challenging yet joyous music that we have come to expect from Fred Hersch.”

– Jeffrey Siegel, Straight No Chaser podcast

“Considering the fluid melodicism of Fred Hersch's playing and his dalliances in the world of contemporary classical music, it's a wonder that this is the first time the pianist has recorded with a string ensemble. It is such a natural fit … The members of the Crosby Street String Quartet flow in and out of each song with fluid perfection.” – Robert Ham, The Voice of Energy

“Thanks to *Breath by Breath*, 2022 begins brilliantly with music. This album will stay with me for a long time.” -- Krzysztof Komorek, Donos Kulturalny

“A unique album in Fred Hersch's discography that will delight both those who like string music and lovers of the most creative jazz.” – Felix Amador Galvez, Jazz Ese Ruido

“While I'm not one who likes to listen to music while I sit, I'll be happy to have *Breath by Breath* on hand to set the mood for contemplative days.” – Ken Shimamoto, Stash Dauber

“We are invited into a beautiful world of sound that invites reflection and meditation.” – Tor Hammerø, Nettavisen

“This is a gift, an explosion of creativity and a spirited run through the landscape that should encourage all the other jazz pianists who need to get out and play.” – Marc Phillips, Part Time Audiophile

“One of the most lauded jazz artists of the last three decades… his textural pianism translates well to the strings.” -– Gary Fukushima, DownBeat

“Transcends the usual jazz parameters…an admirable addition to the Third Stream music genre.” – George Kanzler, Hot House

“... a natural meeting of the two genres without a hint of the pretentiousness that so often mars such experiments.” – Lance Liddle, Bebop Spoken here

“Serving as a catalyst to creativity, this intimate musical experience shows the prolific pianist working in an infrequent context with the same personal voice.” – Felipe Freitas, Jazz Trail

“Hersch is primarily recognized for his piano artistry, but equally impressive is his versatility.”

– Joe Lang, Jersey Jazz