

About Katherine Petersen

Described as a “strong and exciting performer” who plays with “musical feeling and great technical skill” by the New York Classical Review, **pianist Katherine Petersen** enjoys a versatile career performing and educating young musicians locally and across the nation. Petersen has appeared in concerts throughout North America and Europe in venues such as The Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Empire Saal at Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Jordan Hall, Ravinia’s Bennett Gordon Hall, Place des Arts’ Maison Symphonique in Montreal, and Carnegie Hall’s Weill Hall. As a 2006 winner of the CMFoNE Competition, Petersen's performance at Weill Hall was described by Edith Eisler of String's Magazine as “real music-making, concentrated and deeply felt.”

A native of Massachusetts, Petersen gave her debut solo recital at the age of twelve, and hasn’t stopped performing since. That same year, she played her first piece of chamber music at a summer music camp, and knew that collaboration had to be a part of her career. As a result, Petersen has dedicated her career to presenting meaningful collaborative performances. In 2012, Petersen co-founded a violin and piano chamber duo, **Duo FAE**, based on the motto of famous violinist Joseph Joachim and composer Johannes Brahms “Frei Aber Einsam” meaning “Free but Alone.” The duo brought new meaning to this motto, doing all of their rehearsing and concertizing while living in Canada and the U.S. respectively.

Currently Petersen is the core pianist for Chicago-based **Fifth House Ensemble (5HE)**, a chamber group that taps the collaborative spirit of chamber music to create engaging performances and interactive educational programs, forging meaningful partnerships with unexpected venues and artists of other disciplines. As the pianist for Fifth House Ensemble, she is the lead teaching artist on a residency at a shelter for women experiencing homelessness and she can often be found leading workshops on how to excel as a contemporary musician, in addition to her regular concert and radio appearances. Past season highlights with **5HE** have included performances at the Eastman School of Music, Bella Concert Hall in Calgary, and a residency at the Grand Teton Music Festival as the Ensemble in Residence at the Winter Festival.

In the past she has held staff collaborative pianist positions at the Conservatory and Schulich School of Music of McGill University, Killington Music Festival, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and was a pianist for the Montreal Symphony Orchestra’s Standard Life Competition wind and brass division. When she is not collaborating with other musicians, Petersen favors programming concerts that feature the breadth of capabilities of the modern piano. For her, this means exploring the symphonic sounds of the instrument, and favoring transcriptions that test the limitations of contemporary technique. This has led her to projects such as exploring French Classical repertoire originally written for harpsichord, such as works by Rameau, on the piano as well as featuring the Oeuvre of Brahms’ piano transcriptions including the Hungarian Dances for Solo Piano, as opposed to piano four-hands, and the Symphonic transcriptions.

Equally dedicated to teaching and performing, Petersen is in demand as an educator and enjoys giving clinics and workshops at music schools across the nation. She has held teaching positions at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, McGill Conservatory of Music, Merit School of Music, and is currently on faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago, the Chicago High School for the Arts, and the Fresh Inc. Festival.

Ms. Petersen is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and Schulich School of Music of McGill University where her principal teachers included Vivian Weilerstein, Stéphane Lemelin, and Sara Laimon.