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Jazz Pianist Fred Hersch Takes the Stage

A Rare Solo Appearance at KCH on May 6

April 1, 2010 — Ann Arbor, Mich. — Jazz pianist Fred Hersch, considered among the best of his generation, has a style all his own. The New York Times calls him "a master who plays it his way." Having played a number of concerts at **Kerrytown Concert House**, he returns for a solo performance on **Thursday, May 6 at 8 p.m.**

Hersch's many accomplishments include a 2003 Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship for composition, a Rockefeller Fellowship for a composition residency at the Bellagio Center in Italy, two Grammy nominations for Best Jazz Instrumental Performance and a 2006 Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Composition. He has recorded more than two-dozen albums as a solo artist or bandleader and appears on over one hundred recording projects as a duo collaborator, sideman or featured soloist. He has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning with Dr. Billy Taylor and National Public Radio programs such as Morning Edition, Fresh Air, Studio 360, Prairie Home Companion and Jazz From Lincoln Center. In 2008, a documentary about him was released called "Let Yourself Go: The Lives of Fred Hersch." He is currently a visiting professor at Western Michigan University.

Hersch, who has AIDS, suffered a near-death ordeal in 2008 as he battled with the virus. He had a grave case of pneumonia and went into a 2-month coma that summer. He has since gone through extensive therapy and is now fully recovered.

Hersch's newest project has been the Pocket Orchestra, an unconventional instrumentation featuring an all-star lineup: Jo Lawry (voice), Ralph Alessi (trumpet) and Richie Barshay (percussion). Hersch has released a live recording with the Pocket Orchestra, as well as a solo album, "Fred Hersch Plays Jobim," which the New York Times calls "one of his deepest records." He is currently working on a long-form piece to illustrate the dreams he had when he was in a coma. Hersch told the New York Times, "I've been through a lot, and I want to make something of it, musically."

About Kerrytown Concert House

The Kerrytown Concert House is an arts organization focused on community engagement and bringing fine artists and their audiences together. An intimate 110-seat venue, the Concert House is home to diverse offerings in a wide range of musical styles, while rotating art exhibits are displayed on the walls of the house. Located in the Kerrytown district of Ann Arbor, Mich., KCH is available to the community, including educators, students and organizations for recitals, meetings and events. In addition, it is home to the internationally acclaimed festival Edgefest, and is a presenter of artists of the highest artistic excellence. Kerrytown Concert House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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