

A portrait of Francesca Hurst, a woman with voluminous, curly reddish-brown hair, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, blazer over a dark top. The background is a solid dark grey or black.

FRANCESCA HURST

CONCERT PIANIST · COLLABORATIVE ARTIST · EDUCATOR

New music and classical pianist Francesca Hurst is passionate about communicating with audiences and has a special interest in performing music by women. She has over 20 years of university teaching experience, and is currently on the piano faculty at The Catholic University of America where she directs the piano pedagogy curriculum.



about

Dynamic and engaging, pianist Francesca Hurst delights audiences with a mix of classical and contemporary music. Listeners have described her playing as “moving and compelling” and “powerful yet sensitive”. Classically trained, she fell into the new music scene in 2013, when a last-minute gig with Great Noise Ensemble turned into a decade-long engagement as their pianist. At ease with a wide range of repertoire, she makes sense of the music regardless of style and period, is passionate about communicating with audiences, and has a special interest in performing music by women.

As a new music pianist, Francesca has appeared as a solo and collaborative guest artist at festivals like the Atlantic Music Festival, New Music Delaware, New Music Gathering, Charlotte New Music Festival, and the Bang on a Can Music Marathon. She currently performs with the electroacoustic Fuse Ensemble.

Equally versatile in the classical repertoire, she has played in such venues as the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC, and internationally in Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, and France. During the pandemic, she created the 100-day online video series [Daily Dose of Piano](#), which featured music from the Baroque to today, including 14 premieres. She is on the Performing Artist Touring Roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and her debut album of women composers will be released soon.

Francesca is on the piano faculty at The Catholic University of America, and previously taught at the University of Virginia and Trinity Washington University. She maintains a thriving private piano studio in Northern Virginia. She is an MTNA Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and holds a DMA in Piano Performance.



“

...Francesca Hurst captured Bernstein's musical sketches in full timbre...

- [Grace Jean, The Washington Post](#)

“

...her Feli-citazione (a mellifluous, "Italianate" Berio tribute) was never less than exquisitely fluent. And it was a sight to see her donning mittens for the graphic Blokken...

- [Matt Mendez, I Care If You Listen](#)

solo album

Francesca recently completed recordings for her new album *Old and New*, featuring the music of three living women composers. This will be the definitive recording of Jennifer Margaret Barker's solo piano music. The album also includes works by Faina Lushtak and Caroline Shaw. Expected release coming soon.



with composer Jennifer Margaret Barker at the album recording session

new music

Francesca has been a guest artist at numerous new music festivals and events, including:

- New Music Delaware
- New Music DC
- Atlantic Music Festival
- Bang On A Can Music Marathon
- Livewire IV
- New Music Gathering
- Charlotte New Music Festival
- Andriessen 75
- New Voices @CUA
- Atlas Composers Collective



Atlantic Music Festival
Contemporary Ensemble



New Music DC

You can hear her solo performance of Andriessen's piano works recorded live at Andriessen 75 was featured on WQXR Radio NYC (currently WNYC). She has premiered works by composers like Jennifer Margaret Barker, Rahilia Hasanova, Marc Migo', Armando Bayolo, Martin Gaughan, Charlotte Botterill, Alec Davis, and Kristian Schembri.

upcoming concerts

3/20/27 - Rappahannock Concert Association, Heathsville, VA

3/30/27 - Matinee Idylls at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA

4/15/27 - Meet the Artists Series, Reston, VA

4/18/27 - Alden Chamber Series, McLean, VA

...more dates coming soon!



Francesca loves to perform, and is on the Performing Artist Touring Roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.



"Meet the Artists" Series
Reston, VA, April 2025



[@francescahurstpianist](#)



[YouTube.com/francescahurst](https://www.youtube.com/francescahurst)



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teaching



Over 20 years of university teaching experience



Currently piano faculty at [The Catholic University of America](#)



Nationally Certified Teacher of Music ([NCTM](#))



Creates an inclusive learning atmosphere where students feel valued and respected



Her pedagogical materials (articles, videos) have been featured on the Piano Inspires website (Frances Clark) and in the VMTA newsletter.



She has presented for the VMTA state conference and the Richmond and Maine Music Teachers Associations.



Member of MTNA and the College Music Society

