HEIDI LOUISE WILLIAMS, PIANIST

Since her 2004 New York debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, American pianist **Heidi Louise Williams** has received increasingly wide recognition for her dynamic performances, insightful interpretations, innovative programming and superb technique. Praised by New York critic Harris Goldsmith for her 'impeccable soloistic authority' and 'dazzling performances', she has appeared in solo and chamber music performances across North America and internationally, winning numerous prizes. Her engagements have included recitals at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Taiwan National Recital Hall in Taipei, the Kennedy Center, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Brevard Summer Music Festival, the Carmel Sunset Theater in California, the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and festivals in the United States and Europe; and concerto appearances with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, Southern Illinois Symphony, and Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra among others. As a *La Gesse* Fellowship recipient, she performed at the French Embassy in Washington D.C., at Carnegie Hall and on the *La Gesse* Festival Series in Toulouse, France. She has given multiple artist residencies featuring master classes and performances in leading conservatories and universities in Taiwan and China. Her playing has been heard on WFMT Chicago, Classic 99 St. Louis, WQLN Pennsylvania, and KUAT Tucson radio stations, on WWFM Trenton, New Jersey for the David Dubal Show, *'The Piano Matters',* and on classical radio stations throughout Taiwan and Canada.

Williams is actively involved in the promotion of new music and has worked with many distinguished composers including Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Ned Rorem, Chen Yi, John Harbison, Augusta Read Thomas, Carlisle Floyd, Daniel Crozier, James Primosch, Robert Sirota, and Frank Stemper. Her 2011 solo debut recording for Albany Records, **DRIVE AMERICAN,** was named among the top 10 classical albums of 2011 in the Philadelphia City Paper, featured in Fanfare's 2012 Critics' Want Lists, and has been described as 'veritably operatic', 'bold yet thoughtful', 'unflappable', 'provocative and stimulating' (*Fanfare)*, possessing '…the muscularity and poetic power to bring this demanding repertory to life' (*American Record Guide).* Her 2019 Albany Records solo release **BEYOND THE SOUND**, featuring sonatas by Charles T. Griffes, George Walker, Carlisle Floyd, and Samuel Barber, garnered this headline by British music critic Colin Clarke: "Brilliant programming meets performances of fire meets excellent recording meets superb documentation: this is a significant release from all angles." An avid chamber musician, Williams has collaborated with numerous outstanding American and international artists, including the Cavani Quartet, violist Miles Hoffman, violinist Bin Huang, violinist Qian Zhou, clarinetist Eric Mandat, tenor Matthew Chellis, violinist Géza Kapás, cellist Dariusz Skoraczewski, and many others. Other recording projects for Albany Records include her award-winning 2018 release with soprano Mary Mackenzie, **VOCALISMS**, a 2-disc album devoted to premiere recordings of American Art Songs by Daniel Crozier, John Harbison, James Primosch and Ned Rorem; and an album of North and South American cello-piano duos planned for 2021 with cellist Gregory Sauer. Her playing has been published in the *Modern Classical American Songbook* Volume I. She has also recorded for the Naxos and Neos labels.

Recipient of both a 2020 Undergraduate Teaching Award and a 2020 Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award from Florida State University, Williams joined the FSU College of Music in 2007, after having taught at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale School of Music since 1999. Her growing roster of graduate and undergraduate students have won prizes regionally, nationally, and internationally in both solo and collaborative contexts, and are actively gaining employment in teaching and performing roles both in the U.S. and abroad. Williams completed her BM, MM, and DMA degrees at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland, where she studied with Ann Schein and coached chamber music with Earl Carlyss, Samuel Sanders, Stephen Kates, and Robert McDonald. Prior to her studies at Peabody, she studied under William Phemister at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where she later taught in 1999. She is

artist-faculty for the MasterWorks Summer Music Festival, festival pianist for the Sunriver Music Festival since 2018, and has also taught and performed at the Interharmony International Music Festival in Italy. For more information, visit www.heidilouisewilliams.com .