

Hailed for his "breathtaking virtuosity and an intelligent sense of precisely what brings music to life" (*Albuquerque Journal*), Swedish-American pianist Elias-Axel Pettersson is quickly establishing himself as a formidable soloist and chamber musician. The late Ralph Berkowitz wrote "...he is a rare musician who can project his ideas from the piano directly into the hearts and minds of his audience." Pettersson is a Mason & Hamlin Concert Artist and has garnered prizes on the national and international level. He has been heard on national (USA) radio through KHFM and KUNM.

His recent performance of Liszt's *Concerto No. 1* was highly praised, and his continued work with violinist David Felberg and Sunday Chatter (New Mexico) has won him accolades. Recently, Pettersson performed the world premiere of *Petroglyph for Piano (2011)*, a work written for him by New Mexican composer Michael Mauldin. Pettersson also champions music by contemporary composers such as Arnaud Allary, Alan Belkin, Todd Coleman, Alvin Curran, Drea Pressley Tischhauser, Ben Shemie, and Altin Volaj.

Pettersson has collaborated with various artists, including Krzysztof Zimowski, David Felberg, Guillaume Tardif, Nune Melikyan, Henk Guittart, Emmanuelle Da Silva, and Cantor Josh Perlman. His discography on *Axel Records* includes two solo albums and one chamber album, the latter featuring Duo Giocoso, a violin-piano duo he formed in 2008 with French violinist Roland Arnassalon.

Pettersson is a committed pedagogue and has taught at the Université de Montréal and University of Maryland in addition to giving masterclasses across North America. He holds a D.Mus. from the Université de Montréal and has studied with Paul Stewart, Douglas Humpherys, Larissa Dedova, and Maribeth Gunning. He has also played for André Watts, Sergei Babayan, Jean-Bernard Pommier, Arnaldo Cohen, Dina Joffe, and the Guarneri String Quartet.