

## DR. JAMES D. HICKS

James Hicks lives and works out of Califon, NJ, USA, and holds degrees in music from the Peabody Institute of Music, Yale University, and the University of Cincinnati. Other studies include instruction at the Royal School of Church Music in England, and he is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. Hicks held liturgical positions throughout the eastern United States, and in 2011 retired after twenty-six years of service at The Presbyterian Church in Morristown, New Jersey.

In the course of his career, James has performed throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. In April 2017, he presented the complete five symphonies by Norwegian composer Kjell Mørk Karlsen at the Uranieborg Church, Oslo, Norway, and in the summer of 2017, he premiered a contemporary masterwork, *Symphonia Aurora Borealis*, by Swedish composer Fredrik Sixten at Lund Cathedral, Sweden. He appeared as a soloist at the 2016 *Åland Orgel Festival*, Mariehamn, Finland, as well as at the 2015 *Organo Novo Festival* in Helsinki, Finland, a concert devoted exclusively to works that Hicks has commissioned. In the summer of 2015, he participated in *The International Organ Summer*, held at the Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavík, Iceland, and as a part of *Summartónar* in the Faroe Islands. James was a featured guest on *Pipedreams*, a nationally syndicated broadcast celebrating the pipe organ in 2014. Michael Barone, the host of *Pipedreams* dedicated the entirety of this program (*Pipedreams # 1438*) to James' *Nordic Journey* series. In July 2013, he performed in several organ series in Finland, including the *Helsinki Organ Summer* and the *Turku Summer Festival*. He played for Swedish National Radio in March 2012, a broadcast that included world premieres of several modern works from that country.

James' most recent endeavors include a November 1, 2017 live recording for Swedish National Radio in a concert devoted to modern Swedish works that he has commissioned. Future endeavors in 2018 include August concerts in the Faroe Islands, September concerts in Iceland, and recording sessions in November at the Halgrímskirkja, Reykjavík, Iceland.

James has recorded eight collections of organ music on the American *Pro Organo* label. The first, 2003's *American Classic*, highlights the rebuilt Austin organ at The Presbyterian Church in Morristown, New Jersey, and contains many recorded premieres of twentieth and twenty-first century American works, including two original compositions. Over the past seven years, Hicks has recorded seven volumes spanning eleven discs in an ongoing project entitled *Nordic Journey*. The series seeks to create new repertoire from Nordic lands (thirty commissioned works thus far), rediscover unpublished and/or forgotten works from the twentieth century, and, finally, include a few of the standard masterworks. Many of the selections to appear on *Nordic Journey* do so in premiere recordings. During this time, James has concertized as well as recorded throughout Sweden, Finland and Norway on historic instruments, including Linköping Cathedral, St. Johannes Church, Malmö, Skara Cathedral, Västerås Cathedral, Kalmar Cathedral, St. Michael's Church, Turku, Turku

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Cathedral, and Nidaros Cathedral. Future volumes are in the planning stages, utilizing locations in Iceland, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark during 2019-2020.

The mission of Hicks' *Nordic Journey* recording series has found additional recognition as the Norwegian publisher *Cantando* released *The Nordic Journey Series* in June 2018. This volume includes eight works from Nordic composers that James has commissioned over the past five years. Future volumes are being planned as he continues to support the creation of new music from the north.

Another new endeavor for James is a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, juxtaposing his interests in music, Nordic culture and nature. Please visit [www.hicksnordichike.com](http://www.hicksnordichike.com) to learn about this journey, culminating in James' proposed 2020 hike of the St. Olav's pilgrimage path (*Pilgrimsleden*) in Sweden and Norway.

For more information about James D. Hicks, please visit [www.jamesdhicks.com](http://www.jamesdhicks.com). and [www.hicksnordichike.com](http://www.hicksnordichike.com).