



St Mary Redcliffe

James Hicks

(USA)

Thursday 2 February 2023

1.00-1.50 pm

James D. Hicks is a concert organist living and working out of Califon, NJ, USA. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Yale University, and the University of Cincinnati, Hicks has also studied at the Royal School of Church Music in the UK. Jim held liturgical positions throughout the USA over the course of thirty-five years and now devotes himself to concert, publishing, and recording projects.

Over the past fifteen years, Jim has researched the music of the Nordic lands and the result is an ongoing recording venture entitled Nordic Journey. The endeavor places emphasis on new music, he has commissioned over sixty compositions from Nordic composers, as well as researching repertoire from the past that has hitherto never been recorded or published. With the January 2023 release of the Romanticism in Finnish Organ Music, the series now comprises thirteen volumes spanning twenty-two discs, all produced for the American label Pro Organo as well as being distributed by Naxos and the usual digital streaming platforms. Jim has recorded these projects at historic churches and cathedrals throughout Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Two new projects are scheduled in 2023 that will be recorded in Helsinki, Finland and Ulm, Germany, the latter focusing on music from the Baltic lands.

A parallel aspect of the Nordic Journey project is the production of hardbound editions that include premiere publications of many of the works Jim has commissioned as well as several previously unavailable compositions from earlier eras. The Norwegian firm Cantando released the Nordic Journey Series Volume I in 2018, and Norsk Musikforlag published The Nordic Journey Series Volumes II and III in 2020 and 2022 respectively. All three volumes may now be accessed at www.musikkforlagene.no. In addition, Jim collaborates with the Finnish publisher, Edition Tilli (www.editiontilli.fi), in the production of premiere editions of Finnish and Baltic organ music.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, James wrote the first full-length book devoted to the complete works for organ by Norwegian composer Kjell Mørk Karlsen on the occasion of the artist's seventy-fifth birthday. He also contributed a chapter to a study of the music of Swedish composer Fredrik Sixten. Norsk Musikforlag published the Karlsen book in March 2022 and the Sixten project will be released in 2023.

In addition to his endeavors concerning the organ and its literature, James is an enthusiastic exponent of traditional music from the British Isles, performing on a number of instruments associated with this repertoire. Jim is an avid hiker and has walked the historic Hadrian's Wall trail in Northern England as well as traversing numerous sections of the Appalachian Trail in the USA.

To learn more about James D. Hicks, you are invited to visit his website at www.jamesdhicks.com.

James Hicks

Thursday 2 February at 1pm

<i>Symphonic Organ Piece</i>	Eric Alvin (1902-1992)
<i>Rhapsodie sur deux noels</i>	Santeri Siimes (b. 1981)
<i>Lo, in the Wilderness a Voice</i>	Mons Leidvin Takle (b. 1942)
<i>Tango on a Swedish Chorale</i>	Fredrik Sixten (b. 1962)
<i>Tune from Leksand*</i> (from <i>Dalecarlian Reflections</i>)	Nils Lindberg (1933-2022)
<i>Scherzo Sveciae*</i> (from <i>Organ Symphony No. 7</i>)	Kjell Mørk Karlsen (b. 1947)
<i>Fugue on the Copenhagen Town Hall Carillon*</i>	Christian Præstholt (b. 1972)
<i>Rain*</i>	Sigurður Sævarsson (b. 1963)
<i>Toccatà on "Now Thank We All Our God"</i>	Egil Hovland (1924-2013)

*denotes commissioned work by James D. Hicks

*Applause is encouraged at the end of the concert please,
rather than between each item.*

*We ask that no recordings are made of the concert,
unless authorised by the performer and church authorities. Thank you.*

*The church undercroft café is closed until further notice.
Toilet facilities are still available there, as before.*

Visit the new Organ Listing website for details of organ concerts:

www.organrecitals.uk

The next organ concert is on Thursday 9 Feb 2023 with
John Keys (St Mary's Nottingham)

Toccata pour Grand Orgue - Gaston Bélier (1863-1938)

Rondeau (Abdelazar) - Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)

Les Sauvages (Les Indes Galantes) - Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683 – 1764)

Allegretto Op.150, No.4, Allegro giocoso Op.150, No.7 - Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921)

Adoration - Florence Price (1887-1953)

Impromptu no 2 in B minor - Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) arr A Eaglefield Hull

Fantaisie in E flat - Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Romance to the Evening Star - Richard Wagner (1813-1883) arr E H Lemare (1865-1934)

Postlude in D - Henry Smart (1813-1879)

DONATIONS BY CONTACTLESS DONATION POINTS

Please make your donations by card on the terminals at the back of church:

- ❖ *Press the 'Organ Concerts' tab on the screen*
- ❖ *choose the amount you wish to donate*
- ❖ *tap your card to make the transaction.*

*In order to meet the rising costs of putting on these concerts,
we ask for a minimum donation of £5 where possible.*

You can also make your donation through the church website.

www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk