

James McVinnie



James McVinnie's work as a performer encompasses music from the 16th century to the present day. His boundless approach to music making has led him to collaborations with many leading figures in music including Philip Glass, Tom Jenkinson/Squarepusher, Angélique Kidjo, Nico Muhly, Martin Creed, David Lang, Richard Reed Parry, Bryce Dessner & Darkstar, many of whom have written large scale works for him. He has released music on Bedroom Community, Orange Mountain Music and Warp Records.

Pre-covid highlights include the first performances of Philip Glass's Symphony 12 'Lodger' with Angélique Kidjo and the Los Angeles Philharmonic under John Adams and in London with the London Contemporary Orchestra at Southbank Centre, performances of Nico Muhly's organ concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra, an evening-length collaboration with electronic duo 'Darkstar' for the SPCO Liquid Music series and an ongoing collaboration with Tom Jenkinson/Squarepusher. During the 2020 lockdown he launched The Bach Project — an in depth study of Bach's monumental Clavierübung III as well as a release of his recording of the work made in 2017 at the 1702 Art Schnitger organ of the Aa Kerk, Groningen, NL.

2021/22 season will see the launch of the James McVinnie Ensemble with John Adams at Bold Tendencies in September this year and a programme of Philip Glass's *Glassworks* & Chris Thompson's *True Stories & Rational Numbers* for four just-intonation pianos at London's Barbican Centre in November 2021. McVinnie will also give initial performances of an hour long work for organ and 1bit electronics written for him by Tristan Perich. He will perform solo concerts at Lyon Auditorium, Hidden Notes Festival Stroud, Leicester's De Montford Hall and St David's Hall, Cardiff. Later this year, two double portrait albums of music by Bach and Glass will be released on Bedroom Community featuring McVinnie at both organ and piano.

James was Assistant Organist of Westminster Abbey between 2008 and 2011. Prior to this appointment, he held similar positions at St Paul's Cathedral, St Albans Cathedral, and Clare College, Cambridge where he studied music. His teachers were Sarah Baldock, Thomas Trotter and Hans Fagius. He made his debut at London's Royal Festival Hall in March 2014, giving one of the six reopening recitals on the refurbished iconic 1954 Harrison & Harrison organ. He made his solo debut in the Salzburg Festival at age 26 performing with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra under Ivor Bolton.