



James Hersch

by peg furshong

For over thirty years acclaimed songwriter, singer and guitarist James Hersch has been quietly building a repertoire of work that puts him squarely on the edge of acoustic music's importance in North American culture.

James has a rare mixture of straight forward musical talent, humor and sensitivity that allows him to create songs that speak to what is common in all of us. James is one of those few performers who allow his listener to experience his music through intimate images which confront and celebrate today's human condition.

James, a native Minnesotan, has twelve album credits to his name and has become known for his story song releases "BackTracks" and "Innerweather" (strictly acoustic, just James, his voice and his guitar). Hersch has been nominated National NACA Coffeehouse Entertainer of the Year several times and has been a finalist at the international Kerrville Folk Festival. He is a 'Telly' award winner for his original soundtrack for the 2009 PBS documentary, "Paving the Way: The National Park to Park Highway".

Although James has a Bachelor of Arts degree in classical guitar, his songwriting and performing styles are eclectic and broadly appealing. Hersch performs as a solo acoustic artist and his music has taken on a life of it's own, deeply planted in the minds of the thousands who hear him each year. Most recently, James undertook to write, record and publish one song per week for 52 weeks during the years 2009 and 2012. Both projects resulted in CD releases and constitute whole new concert programs.

James' REACH WITH ME residencies have become a useful outreach program among colleges, churches and communities. The program has been honored with the Harry Chapin Award for Contributions to Humanity by the National Association for Campus Activities.