



James Hickerson {*B.Mus.Perf, B.ed*} is a teacher for the Louis Riel School Division in Winnipeg. He is a music specialist and elementary classroom teacher.

James was first smitten by and bitten by the teaching bug when he sat down for the very first time to try to coach some guitar playing out of some 6 and 7 year olds in September of 1977. It worked, they played, and thus began a lifelong calling and an obsession: how to explain it better then make it possible. Since that first day he has taught well over a thousand people to play and to play better than they thought they could.

James has taught in schools, in his own studio, as a university sessional instructor, as a Manitoba Arts Council artist-in-residence for songwriting and choral music, and at the International Music Camp in the Peace Gardens.

James is a veteran performer in the Winnipeg acoustic music community. He is active as a singer-songwriter and as a multi-instrumentalist sideman, performing on guitars, banjo, mandolin, slide, and bass. He has performed across the country, the Midwestern US, on television and radio, and has contributed tracks to many diverse recordings. His own recordings have been featured on CBC radio regionally and nationally.

James' guitar style is an eclectic mix of roots styles and years of formal study. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Classical Guitar Performance, and has studied classical guitar with Paul Hammer, Jeffrey McFadden, and Norbert Kraft. Along the way, he studied jazz guitar with Tim Cummings and extended techniques and improvisation with the legendary Don Ross. But he never let go of that beautiful, earthy jangle that became his lifelong obsession.