

“Risdon communicates the solo recorder’s sonority, versatility and virtuosity brilliantly.”

*The Recorder Magazine*

James has had an almost lifelong fascination with the recorder. His formal studies were with the late Alan Davis and subsequently with Rebecca Miles. He gained his LRSM with distinction in 2011 and in the same year was placed runner-up in the international competition for blind musicians at the Jan Dale Conservatoire in Prague.

His repertoire and work span the Middle Ages to ‘wet on the page’ with several dedications, commissions and compositions to his name including the exquisite concerto by the late Andrew Downes which can be heard on YouTube.

His solo album Echoes of Arcadia is typical of his eclectic tastes, plotting the recorder’s history from the pleasure garden to the mountain valley, ethereal to electronic.

James is a founder member of the British Paraorchestra, directed by Charles Hazlewood with whom he performed at the closing of the 2012 Paralympic Games with Coldplay. More recently, James features in the Paraorchestra’s debut album ‘The Unfolding’ by Hannah Peel and Death Songbook featuring Brett Anderson of Suede.

James has a passion for creating recital programmes to introduce the recorder to new audiences. He has performed at King’s Place and St. Martin-in-the-Fields and The Handel House Museum in London, as well as countless festivals, churches and other venues across the UK and beyond. In 2015 he made his debut appearance at the Wigmore Hall with theorbo player Matthew Wadsworth in a concert celebrating the Elizabeth Eagle-Bott memorial fund which supported James’s studies.

He has appeared as soloist with the Czech virtuosi, London Musici alongside Piers Adams and Devon Baroque, most recently with Rachel Brown. More unusual engagements have included the Bath & West showground for a staging of Britten’s Noyes Fludde, a pod on the London Eye and a performance for the Japanese government in Sopor.

Away from the recorder, James represented Great Britain in the 1996 Paralympic Games in the team sport of goalball, and he is a seven times national champion.

[www.jamesrisdon.co.uk](http://www.jamesrisdon.co.uk)