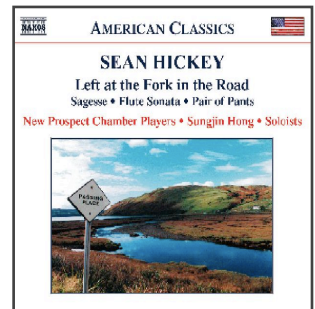




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Naxos, the world's leading independent classical music record label, is proud to announce the release of *Left at the Fork in the Road*, a disc of chamber and chamber orchestral works by award-winning composer Sean Hickey. The disc is slated for release in the U.S. on November 15, 2005.

Sean Hickey has garnered numerous awards and accolades for his compositions. His works have been performed and premiered at major venues throughout Portugal, Ireland, Turkey, Washington D.C. and New York, including CAMI Hall, Symphony Space and Weill Recital Hall. *Left at the Fork in the Road* introduces a variety of new works that aptly displays the stylistic versatility for which Mr. Hickey has become known. (www.seanhickey.com)

Sean Hickey's collaborative efforts within the new music community resulted in a selection of superb artists from across the country for participation on *Left at the Fork in the Road*, combining the artistic strengths of top emerging talents from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The One World Symphony, The Juilliard School, Curtis Institute, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, Colburn School of Performing Arts and Northwestern University.



The title track of the disc, *Left at the Fork in the Road*, features performers **David Gould** (clarinet), **Alden Banta** (bassoon), and **Stefan Hoskuldsson** (flute). One of Hickey's most frequently performed works, *Left at the Fork in the Road* was premiered at the Philadelphia Art Alliance in 2003 and was partially inspired by the composer's study of Latin rhythms - most notably those found in the works of Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera.



Flutist Stefan Hoskuldsson appears on the title track of *Left at the Fork in the Road*, as well as in Hickey's *Fluff* for solo flute, and the **Flute Sonata**, where he joins brilliant pianist **Elizaveta Kopelman**. Hoskuldsson is widely recognized as one of the leading flutists of his generation. A member of the renowned Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and co-founder of the One World Symphony in New York, Hoskuldsson has toured extensively throughout his native Iceland, Europe and the United States. The *Flute Sonata* is one of Hickey's earliest works, composed in 1993, and premiered in his hometown of Detroit, Michigan.

Tango Grottesco, to date, is Hickey's only work for the solo guitar, and has been brought to life beautifully by **one of the greatest guitar champions of contemporary music: Oren Fader**. Fader has debuted in London, Tokyo, Munich, Amsterdam, Montreal, Maui, Russia and Mexico, and he has toured extensively throughout the United States. He has performed hundreds of concerts with a wide range of classical and new music groups, including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Met Chamber Ensemble (directed by James Levine), New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, and New York City Ballet. (www.orenfader.com)



The largest work on *LAFIR* is **Sagesse**, a work for soprano, tenor & chamber orchestra. Set to the text of Paul Verlaine's celebrated poem by the same title, Hickey is in good company with numerous other composers throughout history who have utilized portions of the 16th-century French Symbolist poet's epic work, including Debussy, Ravel, Stravinsky, Honegger, Sorabji and Reynaldo Hahn, amongst others. Commissioned by the One World Symphony, Hickey's *Sagesse* was premiered in November 2003 with soloists **Jennifer Greene** [shown, left] and Sean Fallen, under the baton of **Maestro Sung Jin Hong** [shown, right]. (www.oneworldsymphony.org)



All tracks on *Left at the Fork in the Road* were recorded at the Systems Two Studio in Brooklyn, New York, under the supervision of composer Sean Hickey and producer Benjamin Bierman. For more information on the composer and upcoming release dates, please visit: www.seanhickey.com

* In accordance with NAXOS distribution guidelines, the disc will be made commercially available worldwide, and will be included in the Naxos Music Library, the largest classical music user service for libraries and universities throughout the world. Pre-orders for this release can be found on <http://www.amazon.com> and <http://www.arkivmusic.com>