

Biography

James Cook holds the Bachelor of Music in Performance from Birmingham-Southern College, and both a Master of Music in Performance and a Ph.D. in Musicology from The University of Texas. Since joining the Birmingham-Southern faculty in 1977, Professor Cook has been engaged in teaching organ performance and music history classes, including classes in the history of organ literature and the history of organ design. From 1985 until 1993, he was Director of the Hilltop Singers, and from 1990 until 1993 he served as Chairman of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts. In the course of two successive Sabbatical leaves, Dr. Cook continued his organ studies with René Saorgin of the Conservatoire National in Nice and Russell Saunders of the Eastman School of Music. He has played recitals throughout the Southeast and has also been organ consultant to many churches in the state.

In the last fifteen years, he has taken an active interest in the application of computer technology to problems faced by practicing musicians. In this capacity, he has consulted with several churches in instituting the use of database management software in music and worship planning. He has been a clinician at the Sewanee Church Music Conference and has been listed as a national resource leader for the Presbyterian Church. During a Sabbatical leave in the spring of 1998, he completed an interactive multimedia computer tutorial on the history of the organ. The tutorial is currently available on the World Wide Web and is used as a textbook in several colleges and universities throughout the country.

A member of the Organ Historical Society, he has combined all of his interests in an on-going study of historic Pipe organs in the South, particularly those in remote locations. As Co-Chair of the OHS Database Committee, he publishes regularly in *The Tracker*, the society's quarterly journal, and he was responsible for transferring the Society's database of American pipe organs to the World Wide Web while on Sabbatical leave in 2005. Supported in part by Birmingham-Southern College, the OHS Pipe Organ Database has rapidly become one of the world's leading resources on the subject.

In addition to his work at Birmingham-Southern College, Dr. Cook directs the Chancel Choir at Birmingham's First United Methodist Church, where he has served on the music staff since 1974.