

# NEWS from FESTIVAL HILL



## BUILDING TOWARD THE FUTURE

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### 2015 Round Top Music Festival Update

The 45th Round Top Music Festival promises to be another exciting and successful season. Almost 700 applications have been received from young artists around the world, all vying for the opportunity to participate in this year's Summer Music Festival. The selection process has begun with a goal of accepting around 100 young artists to form the Texas Festival Orchestra. Students arrive on May 31 and depart on July 12.

We are pleased to welcome 45 international guest faculty and conductors to Festival Hill this summer to work with the young musicians during the six-week program of rigorous training and performance.

The calendar for the upcoming Round Top Music Festival is full with eight orchestral concerts featuring the Texas Festival Orchestra; 17 chamber music concerts and programs, including two performances by the Texas Festival Chamber Orchestra; and 12 master classes. The Opening Concerts will be on June 6. Closing concerts are on July 11. The free Young Persons' Concert will be held on Tuesday, June 16 and the annual Patriotic Concert is scheduled for Sunday, July 5.

Composers from the 18th century to the present will be featured. Works by Mozart, Beethoven, J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, and Tchaikovsky, among others, are slated. Contemporary composers include Gershwin, Bernstein, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, James Nyoraku Schlefer and John Corigliano.

**The entire repertoire is available at [www.festivalhill.org](http://www.festivalhill.org).**

### Herbal Forum and Spring in the Gardens

On March 20th and 21st the 20th Annual Herbal Forum will be held at Festival Hill. This event has always been a cooperative effort between Festival Hill and the Pioneer



Unit of The Herb Society of America. In the early years some of the event was held on the Festival Hill campus and the rest was in Round Top. Now the entire event is held at Festival Hill with workshops at various

locations on the campus, main lectures in the Concert Hall, and the Pioneer Unit's gift shop and plant sale in the School Building and Concert Hall grounds respectively.

The theme this year is "Savoring Herbs" and the Herb of the Year 2015, chosen by the International Herb Association, is Savory—a venerable, but presently underappreciated, herb. Our main presenters will be Susan Belsinger, an herbalist

and author from Maryland, and Tina Marie Wilcox, director of the herb gardens at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas. Attendees at the Herbal Forum are sure to learn much and be entertained as well.

At present in the Festival Hill Gardens we are continuing to clean up the debris of fall and winter in preparation for new growth in spring. We have had a fairly mild and wet winter, which is welcome after the harsh and dry winters of the past few years. All the tender potted plants are tucked away in the greenhouse, where many new seedlings and cuttings are beginning to prosper in anticipation of being planted into the gardens. By nature, gardens are always in a state of flux, so there is always something new to see and experience. The recently planted area around the grape arbor by the pharmacy garden is taking shape, making the arbor a pleasant place for a short repose or an outdoor lunch. The many paths on the campus have also recently gotten much-needed attention and welcome those who may want a bit of exercise and nature-watching while visiting the campus.

### Ray Wylie Hubbard to Perform Benefit



In 2011, Ray Wylie Hubbard came to Festival Hill to record what would become *The Grifter's Hymnal* album. In gratitude, the famed country-blues singer/songwriter/musician is returning to Festival Hill on Friday, April 3, 2015 at 7:30 pm to play an indoor benefit concert, \$35 all ages, to raise funds for student scholarships awarded to the young artists attending the 2015 Round Top Music Festival.

### Library Fundraiser a Huge Success

The Library Benefit and Valentine's Day Concert on February 14 was a huge success, raising more than \$10,000 for the Round Top Festival Institute Library. Over 450 concertgoers enjoyed songs from Broadway musicals and classic films, performed by **Dick Smith and Friends**. Following the concert, attendees delighted in a bounty of Valentine treats from the Festival Kitchen while they bid on items in the silent auction and sponsored books through the popular Adopt-A-



**Shown here drawing for door prizes are Pat Johnson, Assistant Curator of Library and Museum Collections, Lamar Lentz, Curator of Library and Museum Collections and James Dick, Founder and Artistic Director.**

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Book program. The auction item bringing in the highest bid at \$225 was the "San Pasquale, Patron Saint of Cooks" sculpture donated by Pat Johnson Art Studio. More than 25 books were adopted, as well. We thank everyone for supporting the Festival Institute Library.

## Stucco Applied to Festival Concert Hall

The east view corridor of the Festival Concert Hall has been clad with stucco, made possible with a significant grant from the **Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation**. The cladding has improved the look of the hall and serves as



inspiration for visitors, concertgoers, faculty and students. The improvement has received wonderful comments.

Progress is being made toward the completion of the Festival Concert Hall. The cladding of the south and west sides is in the drawing stages. Those views will follow the pattern set by the successful completion of the east view corridor.

## Bybee Foundation Gift to Festival Library

The Round Top Festival Institute Library and Museum Collections is home to the books of noted preservationists and collectors, Faith Bybee and her husband, Charles, who are best known for forming the Texas Pioneer Arts Foundation and Henkel Square in Round Top. For many years, the Henkel Square in Round Top provided early housing and performance areas for the beginning of Round Top Festival Institute. The historic Schwartz brewery, which was situated at the previous location of the Stone Cellar, was the first student food service and many receptions were held there. It is very fitting that the Bybee Collection is housed in the Festival Institute Library.

The Collection includes more than 800 books and periodicals that served as research material for Faith's many interests. The Festival Institute has long been active in collecting books of similar interests with the intent to establish a world class research, study and reference library. A gift from the **Faith P. and Charles L. Bybee Foundation** has recently been received in support of the Festival Institute's Fine Arts and Humanities Library. In recognition of this gift, the reading room in the library will be named the Faith P. and Charles L. Bybee Room.

The two-level library has received generous support in the past, but currently remains uncompleted and requires changes to its existing stack space, along with additions to the building to provide space for future expansions. The work done to the library will allow its resources to become available to the general public, while continuing to serve scholars doing creative research. The expanded library will attract both academic and casual



External view of construction

researchers alike. The efforts to secure funding for this project began last year, and the Bybee Foundation's generous gift leads the campaign, with hopefully many others soon to follow.

"I am so grateful and appreciative that the Bybee Foundation has recognized the importance the Festival Institute's library has for our community and for our programming. We are thankful it has taken such a generous step to expand the library and safeguard its invaluable works, which will benefit the public for years to come," said James Dick, Founder and Artistic Director of the Festival Institute.



## Maximizing Potential with Social Media

Beginning in September, 2014, we launched an engagement on various social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram to grow an online audience. Since then we have attracted more than 1,000 followers, of whom 42% fall into the 55-65 age bracket, mirroring the general audience of the Festival Institute. Interestingly, once we tailored posts toward our majority followers, the 12- to 26-year-olds doubled to 26%, bringing to light the fact that the size of our younger online audience is increasing.

The online branding of Round Top Festival Institute is strengthening our sharing potential on all popular platforms which currently encompasses YouTube, Facebook, Twitter,



Instagram and LinkedIn, and soon will include Google Plus, Pinterest and Spotify. As content sharing grows, we will focus on increasing our presence to gain a wider share of the current online community. Maintaining and building that presence requires ongoing communication with our followers. You can help by sharing our links with your friends, coworkers and family members.

## Save the Date: Fellows Dinner, May 9, 2015

All donors matter immensely to our programming quality. Fellows, those who have given \$1,000 or more in the past year, will be honored at the Fellows Dinner on May 9, so if you have ever thought about becoming a Fellow, now is the time. Donations may be made online or by mail. We appreciate each and every donor, at all giving levels. Please contact our office for more information.

## Upcoming Concerts & Events

- **March 14, 3:00 pm** - James Dick, Founder and Artistic Director, performs works by Menotti, Beethoven, Poulenc and Ginastera in Solo Piano Concert
- **March 20-21** - Herbal Forum and Friday Workshops celebrating Savory, 2015 Herb of the Year
- **April 3, 7:30 pm** - Ray Wylie Hubbard Concert to benefit Summer Student Scholarships
- **April 11, 3:00 pm** - Texas A & M Wind Symphony and the Singing Cadets together in concert
- **April 17-19** - Poetry Forum hosts poets from around the US to close the August-to-April Series
- **April 21, 7:00 pm** - James Dick performs works by French composers in the Bullock Museum's Grand Lobby in Austin

## ROUND TOP FESTIVAL INSTITUTE

PO Box 89 • 248 Jaster Road, Round Top, TX 78954

**(979) 249-3129 • festivalhill.org**

E-mail: [info@festivalhill.org](mailto:info@festivalhill.org)

[Facebook.com/RoundTopFestivalInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/RoundTopFestivalInstitute)

Twitter/Instagram: @RTFInstitute