

NEWS *from* FESTIVAL HILL

THE FUTURE AT FESTIVAL HILL

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A World Class Concert Hall Built to Last

Walking into Festival Concert Hall fills the spectator with anticipation. What will happen next on this stage? Some remember the days of being in the fields, seated on haystacks, and that was fun, too. But today's concert hall, built over the span of twenty-five years on a pay-as-you-build-it basis, brings a whole new level of acoustical, visual, and physical comfort.

Meg Quigley Vivaldi Competition and Symposium

Round Top Festival Institute's Festival Hill campus provided the space for this inspiring event of master classes, concerts and seminars by world class bassoonists. The January 2014 symposium was open to bassoonists of all ages and ability levels, and featured world premiere performances of the



Semi-finalists from the recent bassoon competition

winning pieces of the Bassoon Chamber Music composition competition. **James Dick**, founder and artistic director of the Institute, was pleased to serve with an august panel of judges who selected the finalists. **Kristen Wolfe Jensen** of the University of Texas at Austin and **Benjamin Kamins** of Rice University hosted the competition and symposium. It is worth a visit to the Meg Quigley website to read the remarkable biographies of this year's finalists.

What's Next for Creative Development?

Beyond a commitment to sustaining the current quality level of the Round Top Music Festival—a premiere, intensive course of learning and public performance—Trustees of the Institute are engaged with vision development for the future.

Founder and Artistic Director James Dick sees the arts and humanities—with music at the center—continuing to flourish at Festival Hill. The international scope and the special campus will continue to be signatures of the Festival Hill experience. He sees continuing to work on the compliment of artistic opportunities, within the human scale and fiscal responsibilities of Festival Hill.

With performance and rehearsal space, housing, campus grounds, and kitchen facilities, there is an opportunity to provide resources and inspiration for composers creating new works; multiple venues for competitions encouraging artistic development; and to meet intellectual hunger for symposiums that engage experts and the public in cultural conversation.

Because Round Top is located within easy reach of a number of major university libraries, creative study resources abound for people who might have residencies at Festival Hill. Additionally, the Institute's important library collections in music and the arts and humanities, have been carefully developed over the past 40 years. Thanks to some major lead gifts over half the funds needed to build space where young

artists, faculty, and visitors can access these research collections, are in hand. Within the next few years that library will be a reality.

Round Top Music Festival Going Forward

Not yet on the drawing board, but being thought about is including composing, conductor, string quartet, and intensive vocal study and performance components to the festival. These additions won't happen quickly, but will be part of the path forward, when underwriting is found.

One substantial addition will be introduced this summer. In 2014, with the help of a remarkable group who are at the heart of the Institute's success—the highly respected conductors and faculty from around the world who gather at Festival Hill to mentor, teach, and perform with the young artists, Round Top Festival Institute will introduce the **Texas Festival Chamber Orchestra**. Having this featured group, along with the **Texas Festival Symphony Orchestra** and small chamber music ensembles and soloists, expands the training, repertoire, and performance experiences. We are excited about this development and hope that you are, too.

The Young Artists

Comprised of some of the most promising emerging musicians anywhere, the Institute's Texas Festival Orchestra membership is selected through a competitive process that is conducted in audition sites around the country, attracting students from outstanding schools in Texas and places such as Oberlin, Juilliard, Eastman School of Music, and San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and others. The Institute's Program Director **Alain Déclert** braved winter weather to visit fourteen different audition sites across the country. While the plane travel wasn't entirely smooth, the auditions went forward successfully. Recognizing that musical education is expensive and that orchestra members need to be chosen on the basis of the ability to play rather than the capacity to pay, all invited orchestra members attend on scholarship. The Round Top Festival Institute faculty is now involved in the blind selection process that will bring this year's orchestra to campus.

The Conductors

To give a sense of the breadth of global experience these talented conductors represent, here's a brief piece of information about each who will lead the orchestras this summer.

Christian Arming, one of Austria's sought after conductors, is music director of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and of the Liege Royal Philharmonic in Belgium. Yale educated **Perry So** before coming to Round Top performs with the Tivoli Symphony and Israel Symphony Orchestras in May, and has done much work to date in Russia and China.

Emilio Colón, from Puerto Rico, is a cellist, conductor, and composer, who at the young age of twenty-six was appointed to the faculty of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. American **Kenneth Woods** – an alumnus of Round Top Festival Institute – is a well-established conductor in the United Kingdom, currently working with the English Symphony Orchestra, BBC orchestras and founder of the Swan Orchestra. **Heichiro Ohyama**, born in Japan, has a long-established



James Dick and Perry So

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reputation as a remarkable conductor and one of the nation's most renowned violists. In addition to his post as Music Director and Conductor of the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, he is also the Principal Chief Conductor of Kyushu Symphony Orchestra in Fukuoka. **Linus Lerner** is the artistic director of the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra, The Symphony Orchestra of Rio Grande de Norte in Brazil, and the Oaxaca Opera Festival in Mexico. Canadian **Charles Olivieri-Munroe** in addition to his conducting responsibilities in Germany and Warsaw, is a faculty member at the Prague Academy of Music and head of a new Czech Philharmonic educational program for young adults. **Ransom Wilson** is an American flutist, teacher (Yale University and The Juilliard School) and conductor. **Pascal Verrot** is very active in opera conducting; he is the principal conductor of the Sendai Philharmonic in Japan. Pascal has conducted the Texas Festival Orchestra for the last 20 years! Austrian **Christoph Campestrini** was educated at The Juilliard School and has conducted more than one hundred orchestras on all five continents.

This outstanding leadership will be joined by an equally impressive faculty. We invite you to come enjoy the experience – master classes, rehearsals, and concerts. The more you attend, the more you see the musical adventure of the Festival unfold.

Young Persons' Concert

The Young Persons' Concert represents one of the twenty-five concerts presented during the Round Top Music Festival. Free to the public, this performance introduces children to music. It will be at eleven o'clock on June 10. An orchestra



The Young Persons' Concert is a playful way to learn about the instruments and sections of a symphony orchestra

"walk-about" follows the performance which includes a narrated segment by acclaimed double bass performer **James VanDemark**. While the audience won't hear it from him, he is also an accomplished amateur boxer and has been featured on *ESPN*, *Fox Sports* and in the *Wall Street Journal* for the boxing and conditioning program that he established at the Eastman School of Music with legendary boxing coach Dominic Arioli. The Young Persons' Concert is just one of the up-close-and-personal aspects of Round Top Festival Institute that brings home the importance of relationships: to music, to the arts, and to each other. We celebrate being on a journey of discovery together.



Local music students perform in the Festival Concert Hall

Local School Children and the Global Family

We believe in being a good neighbor steward. Pictured above is a group of performers from Round Top-Carmine School on stage. By bringing local groups and global groups onto its small-town Texas campus, the Institute has an opportunity to foster a broader global view of what we see from Texas and of how Texas is seen abroad.

In Concert and About Campus

The Valentine's Concert and Library Benefit was a great success. Thank you **Dick Smith & Friends** and all who attended. Ahead, we have a compelling line-up for Poetry at Round Top coming in April. Turkish recording artist and 2012 JoAnn Falletta International Guitar concerto competition winner **Celil Refik Kaya** provided a magical guitar concert March 8th. James Dick's solo recital packed the Festival Concert Hall. Later this month he performs in Brazil and will play in Dubrovnik, Croatia this summer.

August-to-April Series

Noted pianist and Round Top Festival Institute Alumnus **Robert Hidalgo** will open the next August-to-April Series which features forums, concerts, and dance. Your Festival Hill events calendar will be mailed to you soon, with more details.

Fellows Dinner Coming April 26th

All donors matter immensely to our programming quality. Fellows, those who give \$1,000 or more a year, are honored at the Fellows Dinner—on April 26th this year, so if you have ever thought about becoming a Fellow, now might be the time. We also express appreciation to our very special sponsor group—those who contribute \$2,500 or more a year; they are invited to celebrate with conductors and guest artists at the Log House receptions in the summer. We appreciate each and every donor, at all giving levels. Thank you.

The Fiscal Engine to Sustain the Center

Gifts have always been and will continue to be essential to the Institute. Along with gifts, the trustees recognize that the economic foundation of a permanent endowment trust must also be enhanced to achieve a sustainable cultural center. For that reason, along with a library, we are at work on an Ensemble Center for needed rehearsal and teaching rooms for our students and faculty. These will provide breakout rooms for conferences and retreats, as well. A major new facility, a Welcome Center with dining areas will accommodate all our faculty and students at the same time. The Welcome Center, with the new indoor and outdoor dining areas, will be an amenity important to our future ability to attract revenue-producing retreats, conferences and symposiums. If you are interested in learning more about these capital projects, contact our office.

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As we get ready for our next Herbal Forum, a popular sell-out occasion, we thought you might enjoy this look at the Herbal Forum luncheon gathering from last year.