



ROUND TOP FESTIVAL INSTITUTE is the sole endeavor of The James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts, a non-profit public foundation.



2017 ROUND TOP MUSIC FESTIVAL A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

The 2017 Round Top Music Festival turned out to be one of the most talent-filled and enchanting seasons we've ever had! It all began last October when, for the very first time, we changed the application process to accept video auditions only. We admit, we were hesitant to make such a change because we had relied heavily on recordings (audio only) in the past, but times are changing and we joined the movement to video auditions with astounding results.

This new feature in the audition process yielded some fantastic results. If there is a word to describe how this summer went, it would be *sprezzatura*. This orchestra, along with the faculty artists, worked extremely hard to give the public the performances people talk about for years, all the while making it look so incredibly natural. The

performances had a very effortless instinctual quality this year; nothing was stressed out of place.

They were all remarkable performances, but the ones that stood out to rise above all others were *Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 2* conducted by Perry So; *Verdi Requiem* premiered at Round Top by Linus Lerner; the all-Ravel program conducted by Ransom Wilson featuring new faculty member François Dumont; Yaniv Dinur's two shows including Dvorak *New World Symphony* and the Annual Patriotic Concert; Vladimir Kulevich and Thomas Burritt with the rarely heard Schwanter *Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra* and Tchaikovsky *Manfred Symphony*; and of course the final week's performances of James Dick on Chopin's *Concerto No. 1* and Ravel's *La Valse*.

Texas Senate Recognizes Round Top Festival Institute and its Founder James Dick

The Texas State Senate recently issued Proclamation No. 24, recognizing Round Top Festival Institute, and honoring its founder and artistic director, James Dick, for helping to shape the cultural landscape of the Lone Star State. The proclamation, signed by State Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst, was presented on July 15, 2017 in the Festival Concert Hall prior to the Saturday afternoon concert. The Texas Senate Proclamation may be viewed on the Festival Hill website at festivalhill.org/proclamation.



THEATRE FORUM AT ROUND TOP CELEBRATES 20

In 1997 James Dick asked Kate Pogue to create a Theatre Forum at Festival Hill. The Museum Forum and the Herb Forum had already introduced audiences to the Forum idea: a Saturday of lectures by experts for an avid group of enthusiasts. To the lecture format the Theatre Forum added performances of scenes, speeches, and plays.

The first Forum was called *This Rough Magic*, focusing on Shakespeare and his sonnets. Dr. Sidney Berger and pianist Rick Rowley were instrumental in shaping the first Theatre Forum. Felicia Londré was the distinguished lecturer. The following year the theme was French romantic theatre, and the Forum added performances on Friday night and Sunday morning. Chesley Krohn staged a reading of Victor Hugo's *A Thousand Franks Reward*, while Vern Sutton did a performance/lecture on Delsarte, marking his first year at the Fo-

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Where Do Our Young Artists Come From?

The 2017 Round Top Music Festival welcomed 88 students from 29 states and 14 foreign countries. Fifty-six universities and conservatories were represented, including 5 foreign institutions.

Thirteen students and 12 faculty members came from Texas schools, including students from Baylor University, Rice University, Southern Methodist University, Steven F. Austin State University, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Austin, and University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

rum. Tom Foral also joined the team of presenters that year and from that second year to the present day Kate, Felicia, Vern, Tom and Chesley have been the nucleus of presenters that has made the Theatre Forum such a delight to produce and perform. Ann Thompson and Sonja Bruzauskas soon added their expertise in opera and performance.

The Theatre Forum has attracted an audience that returns year after year. After 20 years Kate Pogue is retiring, hoping to join the audience she has done so much to enlighten over the past two decades. 2017 marks the 20th forum, a special Celebration of the Stage, rejoicing in Festival Hill and its commitment to all the arts, to the Theatre Forum presenters team, and to James Dick whose vision made the Theatre Forum possible. Don't miss this very special weekend – November 3-5, 2017.

Junior Ambassadors Program Completes its First Successful Year

Eight high school students from the local area have completed a year of service at Round Top Festival Institute as part of the Junior Ambassador Program. The program, conceived by Alain Déclert and Nancy Braus, was organized by Dr. Linda Patterson. The young volunteers began their training during the 2016 Summer Festival and continue to volunteer at concerts throughout the year.



At the end of the school year, the Junior Ambassadors were treated to a closing tea at Menke House and an elegant Sunday brunch at Dos Brisas.

The young ambassadors assist with greeting visitors, distributing program evaluation cards, and presenting flowers to conductors and soloists. Through the experience, the students have learned about instrumental and orchestral music, developed poise and confidence, and enjoyed lessons from their mentor, Mrs. Nancy Braus.

Feedback from both the Junior Ambassadors and Institute staff has been very positive. They have brought energy and youth to concerts while developing a potentially lifelong interest in classical music. Band students in the group have shown a keener interest in their instruments after experiencing the higher level of playing exhibited by the performers during concerts.

Two new volunteers have joined the program, as six of the students will graduate from the program next summer. Interested high school students are encouraged to call the Institute office to apply for the program.



What Does Rick Perry Like About Texas?

In a video filmed in the Festival Concert Hall, former Texas Governor and current US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry answers the question, “What I like about Texas?” this way. “If you’re into the cultural arts, you don’t have to live in one of the big cities to hear some of the most extraordinary music, see some of the most extraordinary cultural arts in the entire world.... Right here in my little hometown, Round Top, Texas: a ‘thousand and one’ seat symphony hall.”

Joined on the stage by singer and songwriter Gary P. Nunn, Perry adds, “You’ll also find some of the friendliest people, and you might even find some pretty good barbecue...That’s what I like about Texas.”

Perry enjoys visits to Festival Hill and joins other concertgoers in the breath-taking European-styled masterpiece—the Festival Concert Hall at Round Top Festival Institute, located less than one mile north of Round Top on Texas Highway 237.

The video (“Rick Perry Sharing What He Likes About Texas,” <https://youtu.be/2W8xb-cKVcA>) is part of a new campaign called “What I like About Texas,” inspired by Nunn’s song of the same name, from the Texas Travel Industry Association.

Visions and Voices of Festival Hill

Over 30 well-known writers, poets, artists, photographers, artisans and other masters of various crafts from the Round Top and Central Texas area will display their works in the Visions and Voices of Festival Hill Exhibition on the campus of Round Top Festival Institute during the weekend of Friday-Saturday, October 27-28, 2017. The exhibitors have taken up the challenge to create a representation of Festival Hill, whether it be visual or oral, abstract or concrete.

The opening performance and exhibit will be held in the “Old Yellow School House,” the service building east of the concert hall, on Friday, October 27 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm). Artists will talk about their works and read their poems and stories. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

On Saturday, October 28, the exhibit will be open from 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm. You will have time to view the exhibit and attend the Moores School Concert Chorale performance at 3:00 pm in the Festival Concert Hall.



NEWS FROM FESTIVAL HILL

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#GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

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