

NEWS *from* FESTIVAL HILL

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2012 ROUND TOP MUSIC FESTIVAL

A conversation with James Dick, founder and artistic director of Round Top Festival Institute, and Alain Déclert, program director, about this year's music festival. Ninety-five young artists and a distinguished faculty were in residence on the Festival Hill campus for the six weeks of June 3 through July 15.

ALAIN: Jimmy, what are your reflections on this year's Festival?

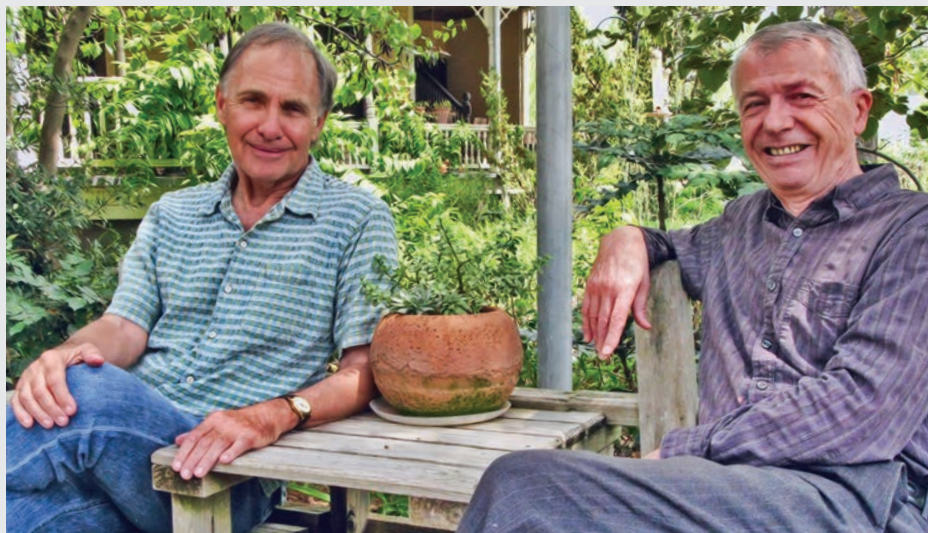
JAMES: Our conductors bring home to me how special these six weeks are. They are involved with performances all over the world, yet they find something here they don't find other places. Michael Stern talked about the positive intensity of the week and how deeply engaged the young artists were with the score and the whole process. Perry So, who conducted at Festival Hill for the first time this summer, said he, too, found the atmosphere of learning here to be unique. There's something about the rigor of the schedule and the opportunity for faculty, conductors, and young artists not only to work together each day, but to come together for meals at Menke House.

ALAIN: Perry, I think, found conducting the orchestra with Sasha Cooke singing *Songs from Rükert for Voice and Orchestra* a treat.

JAMES: How glad I was to see a strong contingent of people present for that concert from Bryan/College Station, where Sasha's parents live. They were here, as was Sasha's voice professor from Rice University.

ALAIN: It was fun this year to have a chamber music concert focused on women composers.

JAMES: We had some surprises for the audience.



ALAIN: Faculty member Carol Wincenc led off one of the chamber music concerts that paid homage to Claude Debussy – it is the 150th anniversary of his birth this year – playing *Syrinx* for flute solo. She approached the stage of the concert hall from the rear, barefoot and reminiscent of Pan.

JAMES: Yes, that was a moment. The chamber music concert in Edythe Bates Old Chapel featuring violinist Gregory Fulkerson where he interwove the music of J.S. Bach and Elliott Carter, giving the audience a new look at the music, was another.

ALAIN: When we are setting the program repertoire for the season, we look for a range of the familiar and works that will perhaps be new to some.

JAMES: For example, we had a world premiere this summer, *Concerto for Orchestra and Two Percussionists*, composed by Jonathan Leshnoff just this year.

ALAIN: The audience was quick to their feet with applause throughout the season.

JAMES: Yes, and that's so appreciated. The performers leave the stage energized, ready to begin work on the next week's compositions. 🍷

Check it out.

A sample post from Alain's website blog:
"July 3, 2012: The world premiere of Jonathan Leshnoff's *Concerto for 2 percussionists, with the Meehan/Perkins Duo, put the audience to its feet! The very challenging Symphony No. 3 by Aaron Copland left an appropriately stirring impression. Kudos to our 2012 brass section.*"

During each festival:

Make sure to check festivalhill.org during the festival to hear about the music as it is performed.

Mark Your Calendars for Next Year's Festival.

June 2 – July 14, 2013

One of the major summer music festivals in the United States, the Round Top Music Festival will celebrate 43 years in 2013. Founded by Texas Medal of Arts recipient concert pianist James Dick, it gathers more than 90 talented young artists – accepted after auditions – for an intensive 6-week program. They are mentored and coached by more than 40 distinguished faculty members and participate in more than 20 orchestral and chamber music concerts performed in the outstanding Festival Concert Hall built over a period of 30 years. Performances in 2013 will begin Saturday, June 8.

Did you know?

Conductors this year came from Portugal, Austria, Canada, France, the United States and Hong Kong. Young Artists came from around the world. At the flag plaza on the Festival Hill campus, seventeen flags flew representing the different home countries of the festival participants.

On every continent.

Well, not Antarctica. On every other continent alumni of Round Top Festival Institute are members of major symphony orchestras.

"Why dream the ordinary?"

This favorite question of James Dick's applies to the uncommon support Festival Hill receives. We would like to give a standing ovation to the underwriters, scholarship donors, endowed scholarship providers, and givers of unrestricted gifts at these levels who made the 2012 Festival possible. You underwrote \$194,000 to help with the twenty performances. You underwrote \$183,500 in scholarships this year, the equivalent of 33 scholarships. Distributions from the 15 endowed faculty and from the 28 young artists scholarships make a meaningful contribution each year as well. We had 95 young artists this year. To fully underwrite scholarships, adding 34 more \$5,500 gifts would be our goal. Thank you to Burdine Johnson Foundation for being the 42nd Season Sponsor. Thank you to Blue Bell Creameries, L.P. for underwriting the Patriotic Concert. Thank you to the trio of Industry State Bank, Fayetteville Bank, and First National Bank of Bellville who participated for the first time as conductor underwriter. Please take a moment to look at the inside cover of the 2012 Concert Program Book to see the outstanding list of people, businesses and foundations who provided exceptional support in the past year, making it possible to stage this festival. By expressing your appreciation when you see them, you help Festival Hill with your encouragement.

Do you need a concert program book?

If you had to miss the Festival this year but would like a program, let us know. We'll send you one while the supply lasts.

Listening to Round Top Music Festival on the radio

KUHF 91.7 in Houston has been airing music from Round Top Music Festival on Wednesdays.

The Order of Arts and Letters

James Dick, who was previously a Chevalier of The Order of Arts and Letters, a distinction which recognizes eminent artists and writers, has been promoted to Officier. Recent Americans who have been honored by The Order of Arts and Letters include Paul Auster, Morgan Freeman, Marilyn Horn, Robert Redford and Meryl Streep.

Presentation about Festival Hill for civic groups

We are always seeking new ways to build audiences for our performances. We have a new presentation available to be shown to civic groups. If there is a group you can interest in this twenty to thirty minute presentation, we have a power point and script that is easy and fun to deliver. Inquire for details.

Did you know you can rent Festival Hill?

Corporate retreats, weddings, special events, luncheon meetings, studio recordings, annual conferences, family reunions, and more can be held at Festival Hill. We welcome your interest and your referrals.

Your donations

MATTER. Thank you. We are able to continue with this project only because a group of people cares about keeping the tradition of classic music alive and flourishing in our world. It is a privilege to do what we can in that regard from our Festival Hill campus in the center of Texas. Ticket sales help. Facility rentals help. Your donations make it possible. There are many significant ways of giving: unrestricted gifts at all levels, support for the festival and other projects, endowed gifts, and legacy gifts. Your annual help and your extraordinary gifts have made it possible for the Round Top Music Festival to be called one of the best summer festivals in the country by *The Economist*.

Your presence

There's a family atmosphere at Festival Hill. Many of you have been coming since the days our concerts were held in the open air. Others of you have recently started coming. Some of you are able to make most concerts, and we say to you a special BRAVO!

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