



James Dick Press Kit

Information and Booking – Jan Lehman – 512.478.1131

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BIOGRAPHY

Recognized as one of the truly important pianists of his generation, internationally renowned concert pianist and Steinway artist James Dick brings keyboard sonorities of captivation, opulence and brilliance to performances that radiate intellectual insight and emotional authenticity.

Raised in Hutchinson Kansas, his talent moved him from the farm to the University of Texas Music Building and out to the world's great concert halls. He received a scholarship to the University of Texas in Austin, studying with Dalies Frantz. Later, he was a Fulbright Scholar and studied with Sir Clifford Curzon in England. Dick's early triumphs as a major prizewinner in the Tchaikovsky, Busoni and Leventritt International Competitions were a mere prelude to an eminent career highlighted by acclaimed recitals and concerto performances in the world's premier concert halls, including New York's Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Town Hall and 92nd Street "Y"; London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room; Le Theatre du Chatelet and Salle Gaveau in Paris; the Academy of Music in Philadelphia; the Kennedy Center and the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C.; and Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

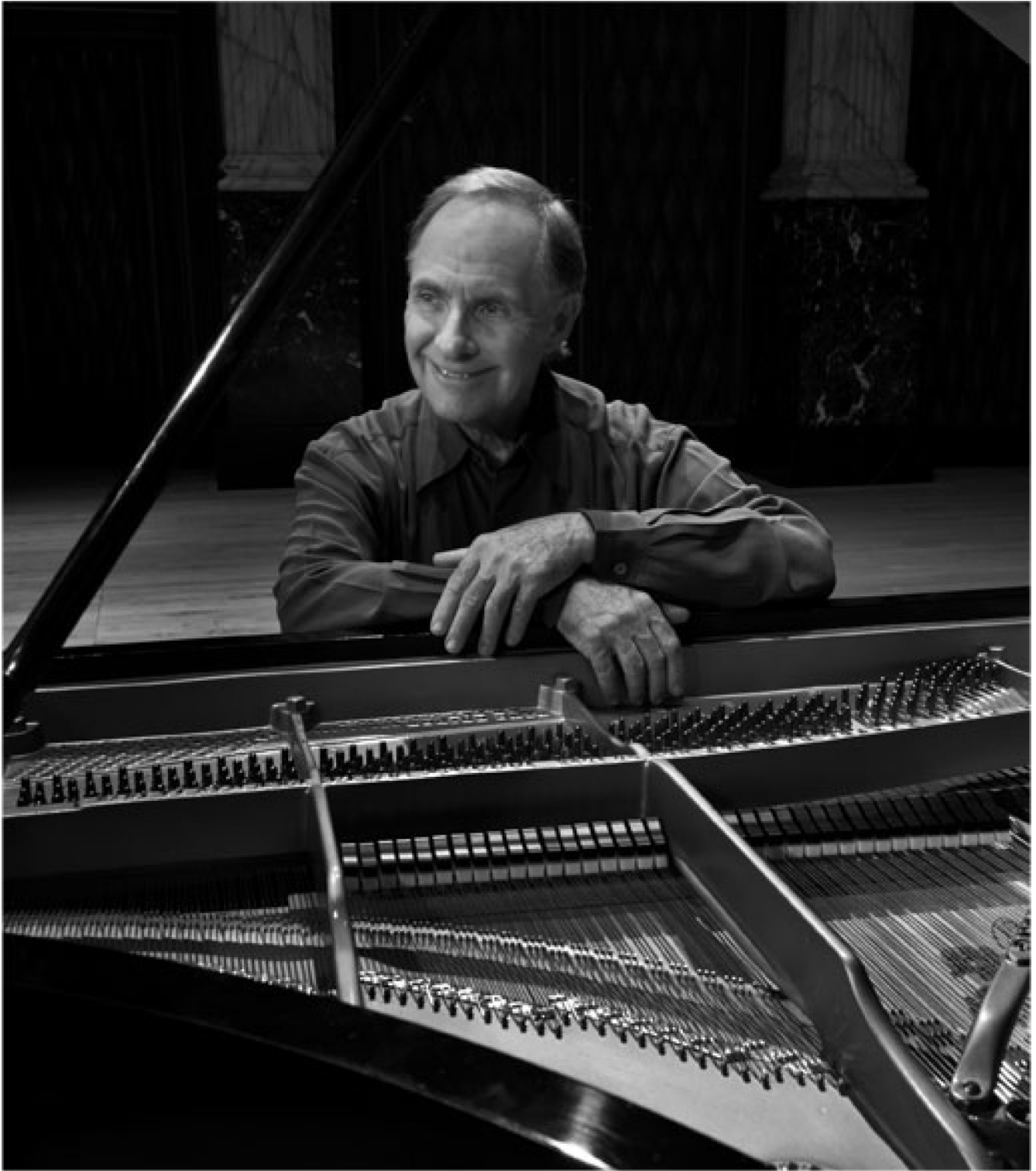
Dick has performed with the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Symphony and many major orchestras, with such conductors as Ormandy, Barbirolli, Levin, Maazel, Kondrashin, Spano, Oue, Sanderling, Hogwood, de Preist and Verrot. In chamber music, he has been guest soloist with the Cleveland, Tokyo, Parisii, Ravel, Debussy and Cassatt quartets and the Dorian and Moragues wind quintets, concertizing as well with Yo-Yo Ma, Regis Pasquier, Young Uck Kim, Raphael Hillyer, Rostislav Dubinsky, Martin Lovett, Andrew Marriner, Guy Deplus and Carol Wincenc.

James Dick has received numerous honors and commendations, including the Texas Medal of Arts, the Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture, and Honorary Associate of London's Royal Academy of Music.

He is a fervent supporter of new music, having commissioned Benjamin Lees, Dan Welcher, Malcolm Hawkins and Chinary Ung to write, respectively, "Etudes", "Shiva's Drum", "Rasmandala" and "Rising Light" for piano and orchestra. On February 1998, James Dick premiered "Flight of Passage: From Silent Sun to Starry Night" by Claude Baker. This piece is inspired by poems by Walt Whitman. It was performed in New York (Alice Tully Hall), Paris (Salle Gaveau) and London (Purcell Room).

In addition to his schedule as a world-renowned guest artist, James Dick in 1971 established the Round Top Festival Institute in Round Top, Texas to nurture and incubate aspiring young musicians. The institute (today operated under The James Dick Foundation for the Performing Arts) has grown from a handful of gifted young pianists in rented space on the town square of Round Top to a 210-acre European-styled campus where distinguished faculty each year teach nearly 100 young artists and the Festival Institute provides year-round education and performance programs for audiences.

Today James Dick is well-known to music lovers as a man of great talent, vision and class.



REFERENCES & REVIEWS

"The sooner Mr. Dick returns to London the better: pianist of this caliber are rare on the South Bank or indeed anywhere else-an artist of such innate musical sensitivity and superlative pianistic skill, establishing an enviable and entirely understandable rapport with the audience."

-Bryce Morrison / *Music and Musicians*, London

"His interpretation (Beethoven's Bagatelles Op. 126) emphasized the music's profundities without neglecting its surface glitter. His 'Appassionata' was intense, brilliant. The same balance of thoughtfulness and technical bravura was heard in his performance of Chopin's Polonaise No. 5."

-Joseph McLellan, *The Washington Post*

"Dick is an affable and prodigious narrator of story."

-Antoine Livio / *La Lettre Du Musicien*, Paris (Salle Gaveau,)

"Many things about Dick's musical and pianistic persona proved reminiscent of his onetime mentor, Clifford Curzon, including a patrician civility and lucid, beautiful sonority. There is too, an architectural proportion that gives even Lisztian bravura passages a sense of purpose and emotional containment."

-Harris Goldsmith, *American Record Guide* (Alice Tully Hall, New York)

"And among artists whose work he (Van Cliburn) has admired, a few instantly leap to mind: 'James Dick who is one of the most erudite and thoughtful pianists.' "

-Howard Reich, "Van Cliburn"

"High level musicianship, warm and poetic. "

-*The New York Post*

"There was no lack of big juicy climaxes or powerful sonorities handled masterfully and in good taste in pianist James Dick's performance at the National Gallery."

-*The Washington Post*

"Soloist Dick, who originally premiered the piece (Lee's Etudes), handled himself not just intellectually but physically in a manner that reflects his personality-not showy but passionate, dramatic and at the same time as mellow as the gorgeous Steinway that is prepared to his specifications."

-Gil French, *American Record Guide*

"Shiva's Drum is the most stimulating new concerto in years. Paired with Welcher's concerto is the Saint-Saens' Concerto No. 2 in G. The two works serve as an impressive showcase for the orchestra and pianist James Dick. Dick commissioned 'Shiva's Drum' and his playing seems to encompass all the dimensions of the music. Every composer should be blessed to have a new work performed at this level."

-Bradfore Gowen, *Piano & Keyboard Magazine*

"Dick gave a sweeping, passionate, powerful and sensitive account of Saint-Saens' demanding Piano Concerto No. 2, at the high water mark of French Romanticism. In full technical command, Dick compassed the most treacherous runs with seeming ease."

-*San Antonio Express News*

"It is a rare privilege to collaborate with an artist whose vision and skill are equally matched by intense humanity. James Dick's music making is as pure and heartfelt as it comes. Not a single note is approached casually the entirety of the score is realized down to the smallest passing gesture, and we get the sense that he has absorbed the music directly from the composer. It was also an immense pleasure to perform with a soloist whose sensitivity extends throughout the orchestra, inviting each and every player to share in and learn from the performance."

Eric McIntyre

Music Director, Fort Dodge Area Symphony

Music Director, Central Iowa Symphony

CONCERTO REPERTOIRE

- Barber, Concerto
- Beethoven, Concerto No. 3 in C-minor, Concerto No. 4 in G, Concerto No. 5 in E-flat
- Brahms, Concerto No. 2 in B-flat
- Chopin, Concerto No. 1 in E-minor
- Grieg, Concerto in A-minor
- Hawkins, "Rasmandala"
- Khatchaturian, Concerto in D-flat
- Lees, Etudes
- Liszt, Concerto No. 2 in A
- MacDowell, Concerto No. 2 in D-minor
- Mozart, Concerto No. 17 in G, Concerto No. 23 in A
- Persichetti, Concerto No. 1
- Prokofiev, Concerto No. 3 in C
- Rachmaninoff, Concerto No. 2 in C, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
- Saint-Saens, Concerto No. 2 in G-minor
- Tchaikovsky, Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor
- Ung, "Rising Light"
- Welcher, "Shiva's Drum"

SOLO REPERTOIRE

- J.S. Bach, Italian Concerto
- W.A. Mozart, Sonata in D
- Joseph Haydn, Sonatas in C, B-minor
- L. van Beethoven, Sonatas No. 21 in C, Op. 53 "Waldstein", No. 23 in F, Op. 54, "Appassionata", No. 24 in F-sharp, Op. 78, No. 26 in E-flat, Op. 81A, "Les Adieux", Bagatelles, Op. 126
- Franz Schubert, Impromptus Op. 90, Sonata in A, D.959, Fantasy in C, D. 760, "Wandererfantasie"
- Carl Maria von Weber, Sonata No. 2 in A-flat, J. 199
- Frederic Chopin, Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp, Polonaises No. 5 in F-sharp, op. 45 and No. 6 in A-flat, Op. 53, "Heroic" and selections of Etudes, Nocturnes and Waltzes.
- Robert Schumann, Arabesque, Op. 18, Carnival, Op. 9
- Franz Liszt, Vallee d'Oberman, Mephisto Waltz
- Johannes Brahms, Rhapsodies Op. 79
- Edvard Grieg, selection of lyric pieces
- Sergei Prokofiev, Sonatas No. 3 and No. 7
- Francis Poulenc, Melancolie Napoli
- Gian Carlo Menotti, "Ricerca and Toccata"
- Benjamin Lees, Sonata Breve
- Dan Welcher, "The Birth of Shiva"
- Claude Baker, "Flights of Passage: From Silent Sun to Starry Night"

CHAMBER MUSIC

- L. van Beethoven, Trio No. 5 in D for violin, cello and piano, Op. 70/1, "Ghost"
- L. van Beethoven, Cello Sonatas
- Franz Schubert, Quintet for piano and strings, D.667, "Trout Quintet"
- Robert Schumann, Quintet for piano and strings in E-flat, Op. 44
- Johannes Brahms, Sonatas for clarinet and piano in F and E-flat, Op. 120
- Johannes Brahms, Trio for violin, cello and piano No. 2 in C, Op. 87
- Johannes Brahms, Trio for clarinet, cello and piano, in A, Op. 114
- Edvard Grieg, Sonata for violin and piano No. 2 in G, Op. 13
- Antonin Dvorak, Quintet for piano and strings in A, Op. 81
- P.I. Tchaikovsky, Trio for violin, cello and piano in A, Op. 50
- Cesar Franck, Quintet for piano and strings in F
- Cesar Franck, Sonata for violin and piano in A
- Gabriel Faure, Quintet for piano and strings No. 1 in D, Op. 89
- Gabriel Faure, Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 in A, Op. 13
- Gabriel Faure, Elegie for cello and piano, Op. 24
- Camille Saint-Saens, Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 in D, Op. 75
- Francis Poulenc, Sonatas for oboe and piano, flute and piano, clarinet and piano
- Francis Poulenc, Sextet for piano and winds
- Sergei Prokofiev, Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 in F, Op. 80
- Dmitri Shostakovich, Quintet for piano and strings in G, Op. 57

RECORDINGS

- Beethoven, Concerto No. 5
- Tchaikovsky, Concerto No. 1
- Rachmaninoff, Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini
- Saint-Saens, Concerto No. 2
- Prokofiev, Concerto No. 3
- Chopin, Concerto No. 1
- Welcher, "Shiva's Drum"
- Hawkins, Rasmandala
- Barber Concerto, Lees Etudes