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## James Dick, Pianist



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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.

## Critical Acclaim

*"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



# Repertoire

## Orchestral 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  
Fsharp, 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  
Csharp, 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, Carnaval, 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 & 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