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(HOUSTON) The Texas Lyceum, the 27 year-old non-profit, statewide leadership group focused on public policy facing Texas and the nation announced today that the recipient of the group's 2007 Stewardship of Texas Values Award is world-renowned concert pianist and founder of The International Festival-Institute at Round Top, Texas, Mr. James Dick.

"Mr. Dick is the first recipient of the Steward of Texas Values Award from the field of arts and culture," said Lyceum Stewardship of Texas Values Award Chairman Walter Tomlinson. "This is not only a high honor and compliment to Mr. Dick, but it also reflects the Texas Lyceum's recognition of the critical role the arts community plays in preserving and further developing Texas' enduring values."

Mr. Dick is being recognized for his contributions to Texas through his own career as a world-class pianist, but also for his commitment to foster the talent of young musicians.

The concept of the Stewardship of Texas Values Award (SOTV) was developed in 1988 to honor distinguished Texans from all interest areas who best exemplify Texas values and the principles for which the state and the Lyceum stand. Some past SOTV award recipients include Lady Bird Johnson, Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby, Southwest Airlines CEO Herb Kelleher, business executives Red McCombs and Bernard Rapoport, as well as philanthropists George and Ronya Kozmetsky.

Mr. Dick will be officially presented with the Stewardship of Texas Values Award on October 20th at the Lyceum's alumni reunion in Kerrville, Texas.

"I'm very honored to receive this distinguished recognition from the Texas Lyceum, and honored, as well, by the fruitful and mutually satisfying relationship the Lyceum and I have enjoyed over a period of many years," said James Dick. "I thank the Lyceum sincerely for their leadership and their continuing advocacy on behalf of the arts and humanities here in Texas."

James Dick the performer:

Raised on a small farm in South Central Kansas, James Dick left his humble beginnings to become an outstanding concert pianist who has performed with a long list of noted conductors and orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the National Symphony. A graduate of the University of Texas with special honors in piano in 1963, Mr. Dick received two Fulbright Fellowships to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London and privately with Sir Clifford Curzon, a major pianist of the century. A Texas State Musician appointee in 2003, Mr. Dick was a top prizewinner at the Tchaikovsky, Busoni and Leventritt international competitions and has represented the United States on the juries of the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and the Van Cliburn Piano Competition in Fort Worth. In 2003 Mr. Dick was named Musician of the Year by the Texas Commission on the Arts and he is a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas.

James Dick the educator:

Mr. Dick is committed to music education. He founded the International Festival-Institute in Round Top in 1971. The 210-acre campus - Festival Hill - is an internationally recognized music education project which consists of beautifully renovated historic Texas structures including major performance facilities, extensive gardens, parks and nature preserves.

Mr. Dick's International Festival-Institute at Round Top instructs students from conservatories and universities in the United States and abroad under the guidance of Mr. Dick and an international music faculty. A number of Texas universities participate and, while the number of Festival-Institute alumni is in the thousands, the project manages to give each student the personal attention that has been a hallmark of its programs.

The International Festival-Institute at Round Top is both a festival and an institute, where students and faculty study for six weeks and perform for appreciative and large audiences. Broadcasts of "Live From Festival Hill" over public radio stations extend the concerts and audiences of The Festival-Institute throughout the United States. The festival's repertoire spans baroque to modern styles. The Festival-Institute also commissions work by contemporary composers, frequently serving as a venue for world premiers of new compositions including Etudes for Piano and Orchestra by Benjamin Lees, which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize

Like the Texas Lyceum, which encourages members to lead in their respective communities and promotes public service, The Festival-Institute fosters future musical talent through exemplary education and an opportunity to perform.

“James Dick is a true steward of Texas values,” said Mr. Tomlinson. “His lifetime of work as an outstanding artist, a devoted music instructor and purveyor of classical music in a beautiful Texas setting make him a wonderful Texas arts ambassador to the world. We are honored to name him our 2007 Stewardship of Texas Values Award recipient.”

More about the Texas Lyceum

The 27 year-old Texas Lyceum is comprised of 96 Texas men and women who begin their tenure as Lyceum Directors before the age of 46. Each of them has demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas.

The association acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, publishes the Lyceum Journal, and conducts programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation. For the first time in 2007, the group commissioned a public opinion survey to measure Texans’ attitudes about policy and specific issues known as the Texas Lyceum Poll. For more information about the Texas Lyceum, please visit: www.texaslyceum.org.