



WRR Classical 101.1 FM  
1516 First Avenue – Fair Park  
Dallas, TX 75210

# News Release

CONTACT: Victoria Eiker  
Marketing/Promotions Manager  
(214) 670-8558  
[veiker@wrr101.com](mailto:veiker@wrr101.com)

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## **50 Years Ago: Van Cliburn won 1<sup>st</sup> International Tchaikovsky Competition** ***WRR to air two programs commemorating milestone***



WRR Classical 101.1 fm, in conjunction with the Van Cliburn Foundation in Fort Worth, is producing two special programs commemorating the 50th anniversary of Van Cliburn's triumph in Moscow at the First International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition.

In April 1958, Van Cliburn, a 23-year-old, 6'4", redhead from Texas won the Tchaikovsky Competition, derailing the Soviet's attempt to demonstrate cultural superiority during the Cold War, on the heels of their technological victory with the Sputnik launch in October 1957.

"WRR is honored to play such an important role in commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Van Cliburn's historic accomplishment in Moscow," Greg Davis, WRR General Manager said. "This was not just an individual milestone, but an important moment in America's history. This young Texan was the first classical performer to receive a ticker tape parade in New York City, he was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine and some even credited Cliburn for making the first tear in the Iron Curtain."

**On March 19 beginning at 8 p.m.**, WRR will air a special three-hour call-in program hosted by WRR announcer Kevin Sutton and Mona Golabek of the syndicated program *The Romantic Hour*. Listeners will be able to participate in a discussion of Cliburn's life, times and achievement, as well as listen to excerpts of some of Van Cliburn's most famous recordings.

WRR will air the world premiere of ***Van Cliburn: Music and Diplomacy on April 14 at 8 p.m. (CST)***. This unforgettable two-hour radio program also will be available for international distribution through the WFMT Radio Network in Chicago.

Golabek, who is a Steinway artist, Grammy nominated pianist and an Avery Fisher Prize recipient, will host ***Van Cliburn: Music and Diplomacy***.

This music documentary will include Interviews with current and former American and Russian dignitaries and will examine Cliburn's Texas roots, the political/Cold War

implications of his triumph in Moscow, his recordings and concerts, and his legacy including the International Van Cliburn Piano Competition and the Piano Institute at Texas Christian University.

“WRR is working closely with the Van Cliburn Foundation to produce special programming befitting a classical performer and cultural ambassador of Van Cliburn’s stature,” Davis said. “For more than five decades, Cliburn has been enriching lives and fostering a mutual love for classical music. WRR intends to introduce new audiences to the brilliance of Van Cliburn as well as present new insight for those who have loved him for years. We hope many Cliburn admirers call in March 19 and that all of North Texas tunes in April 14 for an unforgettable tribute to this larger than life Texan.”

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*Licensed on August 5, 1921, WRR is Texas' first commercial radio station and the second oldest in the United States. WRR FM has maintained its classical format since 1948. Broadcasting 24 hours a day from historic Fair Park in Dallas, WRR's 100,000-watt signal can be received throughout North Texas. The station "streams" its terrestrial broadcast signal on the Internet at [wrr101.com](http://wrr101.com).*