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**Van Cliburn – The International Legend
(12.07.1934 – 27.02.2013)**

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"Van Cliburn was an international legend for over five decades, a great humanitarian and a brilliant musician whose light will continue to shine through his extraordinary legacy"- Mary Lou Falcone, his publicist and long-time friend

Van Cliburn, reclusive and virtuosic American pianist passed away at his home in Texas on Wednesday, 27th of February 2013, after suffering from advanced bone cancer. Born 12th of July 1934, Van Cliburn has reached the peak of his career in 1958. Unfortunately, he walked away from the stage quite early in 1978 and his performances became increasingly rare. As a result, recordings of the concerts of this legendary pianist are now extremely exceptional and valuable. RTRWorldwide is proud to announce that it has some of these precious performances of Van Cliburn as well as documentaries and entertainment programmes featuring the pianist within its comprehensive archive.

About Van Cliburn

Van Cliburn began taking piano lessons at the age of 3 and was completely literate in music by age of 5, even though he could not read or write. He won his first Texas competition when he was 12, and two years later he played in Carnegie Hall as the winner of the National Music Festival Award. By the age of 20, he had played with the New York Philharmonic and the symphonies of most major cities. Between 1952 and 1958, he won all but one competition he entered.

His real triumph came when he won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow at age 23 in 1958. This competition was supposed to bring another embarrassment to the US and to re-establish superiority of the Soviet Union after winning the Space Race, this time from a cultural standpoint. However, Cliburn's performance at the finale led to an eight-minute standing ovation and the Russian judges who included remarkable Soviet musicians, among them Dmitri Shostakovich, Emil Gilels and Sviatoslav Richter, asked Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev for permission to give the top prize to the 23-year-old American. This win proved the power of the arts to bring unity in the midst of strong rivalry between the two powers.

Cliburn's triumph helped spur a brief thaw in US-Soviet relations and made him an overnight sensation in the US. He returned to New York City as a hero receiving the first ever ticker tape parade for a classical musician. Time magazine cover proclaimed him "The Texan Who Conquered Russia".

During his career Cliburn performed for royalty, Heads of State in Europe, Asia and South America, and for every US president since Harry Truman. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2003, the Order of Friendship of the Russian Federation from Russian president Vladimir Putin in 2004 and was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in 2011. His recording of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, which he had played in Moscow, became the first classical album to go platinum and was the best-selling classical album for more than a decade.

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Exceptional Footage – Examples only (There is much more!)

Title	Description	Year	Duration
Concert of Van Cliburn (ID 8174)	In the performance of V.Cliburn (piano, USA) and the Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Moscow State Philharmony led by K.Kondrashin Concerto №1 for piano and orchestra by Tchaikovsky, Concerto № 3 for piano and orchestra by Rachmaninoff, Rachmaninoff's Prelude. Recorded live from the Great Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory	1958	01:41:01
Polonaise (ID 33271)	Polonaise №6 in A flat major, F. Chopin's composition 53 in the performance of the pianist V.Cliburn. (From the concert program "Blue Light")	1962	00:06:53
Concert of Van Cliburn (ID 6234)	In the performance of American pianist Van Cliburn and the Symphony Orchestra of the Moscow State Philharmony led by K.Kondrashin Brahms' Concerto № 2 for piano and orchestra and Rachmaninoff's Concerto № 2 for piano and orchestra. (Recorded live from the Great Hall of Moscow State Conservatory)	1962	01:32:23
Dedication (ID 36901)	Play of R. Schumann-F.Liszt "Dedication" performed by V.Cliburn (USA). Shooting in the pavilion.	1964	00:03:41
In the world of sounds. Plays Van Cliburn (ID 35229)	About the work of the American pianist Van Cliburn, about his arrival in the USSR in 1972. Works by Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Liszt, Tchaikovsky and Grieg are performed by Van Cliburn in the programme.	1972	00:43:17
Van Cliburn Recital (ID 8144)	In the performance of V.Cliburn works of I.Brahms, S.Prokofiev, F.Chopin, F.Liszt, A.Scriabin, C.Debussy. Recorded live from the Greate Hall of the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory.	1972	01:46:36
Van Cliburn. Code 80012 (ID 48651)	Working materials to the programme about the American pianist Van Cliburn : an interview with him, interviews with the audience near the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall	1989	01:58:00

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