



CHRISTIE'S

**LIVE from the NYPL & Christie's
present**

**Van Cliburn
in conversation with Paul Holdengräber**

Tuesday, May 15, 7pm

**Celeste Bartos Forum, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building
Entrance at 42nd Street near Fifth Avenue**

For tickets, visit livefromthenypl.showclix.com

For more information, visit nypl.org/LIVE

Van Cliburn, one of the world's great pianists -- once dubbed "The Texan Who Conquered Russia" by *Time* magazine -- will reflect on the trajectory of his own career, from piano lessons with his mother, Rildia Bee, to performances at the White House for every U.S. president since Harry Truman.

Van Cliburn was propelled to fame in 1958 following his historic victory at the first international Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. Embraced by the Soviet Union at the height of the cold war, this Texan became America's most persuasive cultural ambassador, creating chinks in the iron curtain long before glasnost and perestroika. His version of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto was the first classical recording to sell a million copies and has since has gone triple platinum.

In a wide-ranging conversation with Paul Holdengräber, Van Cliburn will also discuss his extensive collection of English furniture and Russian art, silver, and jewels, to be auctioned off at Christie's on May 17.

Van Cliburn has been awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Russia's Order of Friendship, Kennedy Center honors, and the National Medal of Arts. An honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in London, he is the recipient of more than twenty honorary doctorate degrees.

Media Contacts:

Kate Stober, Press Representative, New York Public Library, 212-592-7708 / katestober@nypl.org

Sara Fox, Senior PR Manager, Christie's, 212-636-2680 / sfox@christies.com