Robert Dick

A flutist whose technical resources and imagination seem limitless. – New York Times

Robert Dick has utterly dispensed with preconceptions about what a flutist should sound like and what a flutist should play. Since he began composing and improvising in the 1970s, he has pursued the core idea that acoustic instruments are capable of sonic vocabularies and musical expression extending far beyond their traditional sonorities and musical roles. Robert’s music carries this vision of continuous transformation into his approach to aesthetics and style. He draws from the jazz tradition, world musics (especially Indian and African), electric and electronic music and natural sounds. Hallmarks of his work are clarity of structure and vivid timbre.

Robert’s compositions have been recognized with a Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEA Composers Fellowships and many commissions and grants. The projects have ranged from through composed scores to carefully constructed structures supporting extensive improvisation.

Dick has had a major impact on flute playing everywhere through his pedagogy, including countless masterclasses throughout the Americas, Europe, Australia and Asia, the seminal books The Other Flute, Tone Development through Extended Techniques and Circular Breathing for the Flutist plus two volumes of the etudes Flying Lessons. Instructional CDs and DVDs and his series of instructional videos on YouTube illuminate his ideas and music and empower other flutists to transform their playing.

For the past quarter century, Dick has been contributing to the evolution of the flute itself. His invention, the Glissando Headjoint®, is a telescopes to do for the flute what the “whammy bar” does for the electric guitar. The Glissando Headjoint® is being made under Robert Dick’s own name by the parent company of Haynes Flutes and marketed through www.glissando.biz.

Robert Dick teaches flute and coaches improvisation and chamber music at NYU. He is also on the faculty of the City University of New York Graduate Center, teaching both flute and composition. Dick maintains an active private teaching studio, which includes working with flutists the world over using Skype. In Fall 2015, the Robert Dick Residential Studio in New York shall begin. Students in the Studio will study with Mr. Dick for two full days each week from September through December, going into depth in contemporary techniques and repertoire.