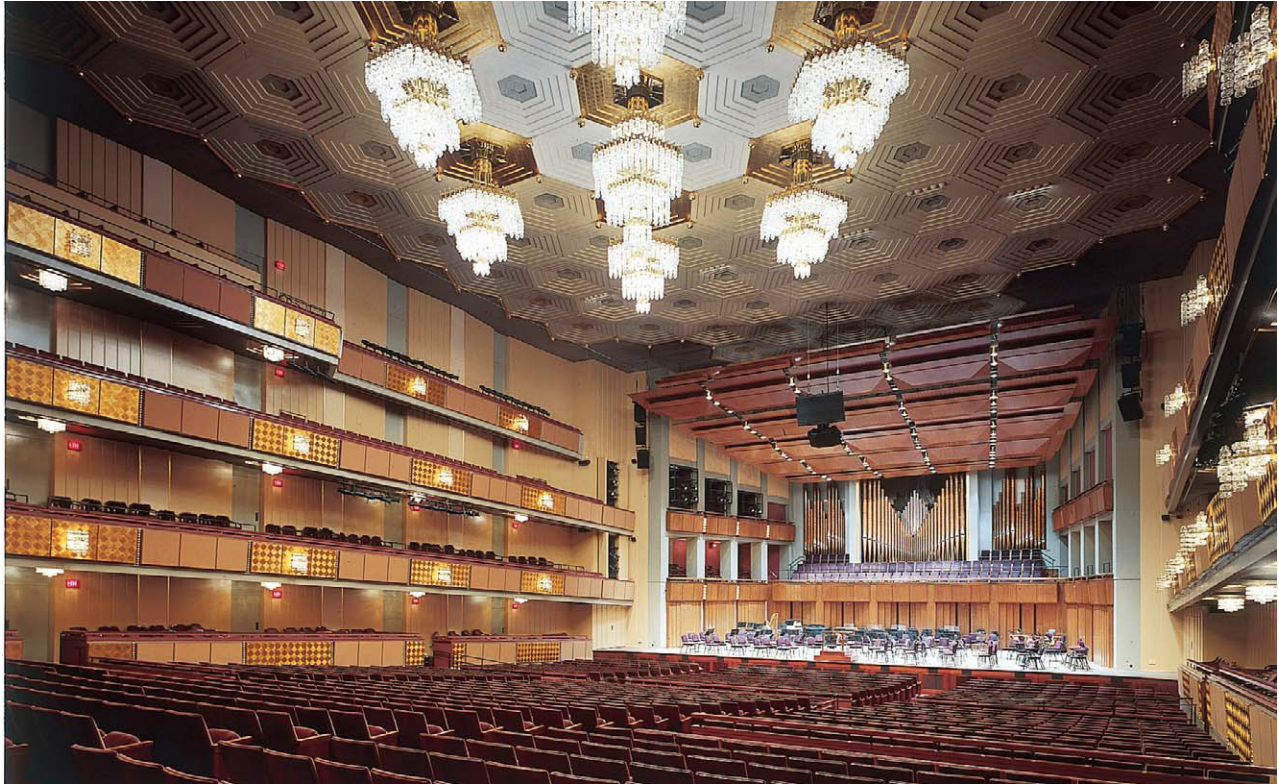




Concert Halls



John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Washington, D.C.

In the Kennedy Center Concert Hall's first comprehensive renovation, the stage platform was completely reconstructed and a new acoustical canopy erected over the stage to correct a major flaw that had hampered performances since the hall's 1971 opening—the musicians' inability to hear one another on stage. Not only has the renovation significantly improved the on-stage hearing environment, enabling the musicians of the National Symphony to perfect their ensemble skills, but it has enhanced the quality of sound throughout the 2,518-seat hall.

The over-stage canopy blends and balances the instruments, lending coherence to the full orchestral sound while allowing listeners to discern the delicate textures of individual instrumental voices. Acoustical intimacy between performers and audience was enhanced by the canopy and by substantial changes to orchestra-level seating. Among other interventions, JaffeHolden acoustical designers recommended the removal of a number of side-wall boxes in the second tier, close to the stage, which eliminated seats with poor views and heightened the resonance of the entire hall. These improvements were complemented by the rebuilding of the magnificent Filene Pipe organ, whose majestic tone now fills the space in a way never before possible.

Project Information

2,518-seat Concert Hall

Scope of Work

Architectural Acoustics
Sound Isolation
Mechanical System Noise Control
Concert Shell Design
Sound/Communication Systems Design

Budget

\$11,000,000

Completion Date

1998

Design Team

Architect: Quinn Evans and Hartman Cox Architects
Theater Consultant: Roger Morgan Studio

Consultant Team

Christopher Jaffe, Principal Designer
Russ Cooper, Project Manager
David Rob, Electro-Acoustic Designer

Client

John F. Kennedy Center

"Thank you for the extraordinary work you did on transforming the sound of the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. It is truly a room in which all Americans can enjoy music under ideal conditions."

*Lawrence Wilker, President
John F. Kennedy Center*

JaffeHolden.com

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