JaffeHolden
Acoustics • Audio • Video

Outdoor Performance Venues

Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center

Bethel, New York

The Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center Pavilion is a 4,800-seat music pavilion on the site of the Woodstock Festival. It is designed to serve rock music as well as symphonic orchestras. The orchestra shell designed by JaffeHolden consists of 10 wooden towers and 4 wooden ceiling pieces and are in place for performances such as the New York Philharmonic, Wynton Marsalis and other performers that want an "unplugged" sound. For rock concerts, the wooden towers are removed and stored and a state of the art house sound system is used for the lawn and pavilion. Designed by JaffeHolden the system provides sound for local community groups as well as infrastructure for touring bands to connect their rigs to.

Blockbuster Desert Sky Pavilion

Phoenix, Arizona

JaffeHolden was the consultant for both the acoustics and the sound systems for this outdoor music and entertainment pavilion near Phoenix. The pavilion, one of the largest in the country, seats 7,000 under its roof and provides space for another 12,000 people on the lawn. The sound reinforcement systems for the lawn area were carefully designed to provide high sound levels while containing the coverage to the lawn. JaffeHolden also specified and commissioned a Sound Management System that assists the operators in keeping sound levels within local environmental

noise ordinances.

Hollywood Bowl

Hollywood, California

The symphonic acoustic design of the Hollywood Bowl was based on a proven concept that has been successfully implemented since the early 1960's for symphony orchestras such as Cincinnati, Detroit and Pittsburgh who were playing in multi-use indoor and/or outdoor performance spaces. Since these orchestras were performing out of doors or in theaters that were on the dry side, we used the volume of the theater stage house as an acoustic chamber to develop additional reverberation or liveness in the audience listening areas. Within these stage house volumes we designed demountable concert shells that had tunable ceiling reflector panels suspended from the theater rigging. At the Hollywood Bowl, the overall hard reflective bowl like shell is the reverberant chamber and the adjustable reflectors within the halo ring enable us to balance as well as blend the sections of the orchestra and increase onstage hearing for the musicians. In an outdoor venue that seats close to 20,000 people, the use of sound reinforcement is a given. However, a live, well blended and balanced orchestral sound at the source makes it much easier for the console operator to provide a sound that is more representative of what one might hear in a well designed concert hall.

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