



Performing Arts Centers

Cannon Center for the Performing Arts

Memphis, Tennessee

The 2,000-seat Cannon Center for the Performing Arts is a multi-use hall featuring a double pit lift arrangement which allows the majority of an orchestra to be positioned within the audience chamber. The strings and winds are thus closer to the audience and can be balanced sonically with the higher powered brass and percussion while the wood forestage acoustical canopy provides an extension of the shell. The canopy, combined with the refinished Memphis Symphony shell towers (JaffeHolden design circa 1992) offers a warm, reflective concert enclosure for the musicians. The double pit lift innovation also reduces the hall's seating capacity to a more intimate 1,800-seats for the symphony.

The hall's configuration features a shoebox balcony and parterre inside the shoebox shaped walls. The finishes of the balcony fronts and boxes are wood, but the outer walls are dark colored plaster on block. The effect is one of an intimate hall where the side walls recede into the background. In order to provide the correct acoustics for both symphony and amplified entertainment, there are adjustable draperies along the upper side walls, rear walls and over the acoustic canopy. The result is the ability to change reverberation time from 2.2 seconds down to 1.4 seconds for Broadway and popular entertainment.



"More than 1,000 behold Cannon, the 'Carnegie Hall' of Memphis."

Opening Night Review

Christopher Blank

Memphis Commercial Appeal

Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences

Charleston, West Virginia

JaffeHolden design for the Clay Center provides unique solutions for the Center's multipurpose performing arts programs. The 1,800-seat Maier Theatre, which is home to West Virginia Symphony, incorporates a multiple orchestra pit lift system that places the orchestra out into the hall by as much as 27 ft. The shape of the theatre is reminiscent of a cello with a volume equal to that of the world's great concert halls. The Maier Theatre's wood surfaces and sidewall seating provide audiences with excellent visual and aural experiences. In addition to the Maier Theatre, JaffeHolden consulted on the 200-seat IMAX theatre, isolating the sound from each space as well as from the adjacent science museum and visual art gallery. JaffeHolden's electro-acoustic design for the Clay Center incorporates the latest sound system components supporting the diverse programmatic mix of the theatre.



"The Maier Foundation Performance Hall in the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences sounded like the gem the West Virginia Symphony had sought when the orchestra gave its first performance there Tuesday night. The Clay Center is already the Hope Diamond."

David Williams

Charleston Gazette

JaffeHolden.com

Northeast: 114-A Washington Street, Norwalk, CT 06854 • tel: 203.838.4167 • fax: 203.838.4168
West: 1453 Third Street Promenade, Suite 335, Santa Monica, CA 90401 • tel: 310.319.1333 • fax: 310.319.1344