

Concert Halls



River Center for the Performing Arts Legacy Hall

Schwob School of Music
Columbus, Georgia

The Legacy Hall is home to classical performances, children's theater and organ recitals on a magnificent Jordon tracker instrument. JaffeHolden took a new and innovative approach to recital hall design—instead of controlling reverberation by building a tight, small hall, as is commonplace for 450-seat university facilities, we designed a very tall room with massive acoustic volume. To achieve warmth and not sacrifice presence, clarity and intimacy, we utilized acoustic reflectors, shaped balcony fronts and surrounded the stage with wood reflecting walls. The result is an exceptionally warm, rich and enveloping sound, with unusual clarity and articulated sound common to a much smaller room.

The undulating walls are constructed with unique clay-tile block that is very dense, seals bass tones and isolates noise from the busy three-hall complex. Adjustable hardwood reflectors of ash wood hang over the stage and audience, and are angled and shaped for optimal reflections for on-stage hearing. The hardwood stage floor works as a giant sounding board (as in a piano) and is vented to the audience through large vents on the stage edge. When a more subtle, dryer sound is desired, motorized acoustic banners drop out of the ceiling on three walls. These highly efficient banners control and "tighten" the sound so that it is flattering to solo artists, amplified music, conferences and lectures. Everything in Legacy Hall is acoustically designed—from the custom wood seats to the solid wood balcony fronts to the silent air conditioning systems.

Project Information

450-seat Legacy Recital Hall
150-seat Studio Theatre/Chamber Hall
School of Music

Scope of Work

Architectural Acoustics
Noise and Vibration Control
Sound Reinforcement Systems
Organ Consultation

Budget

\$10,000,000

Completion Date

Spring 2002

Design Team

Architects: Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Architects
Hecht, Burdeshaw, Johnson, Kidd and Clark Inc.
Theater Consultants: Theatre Projects Consultants

Consultant Team

Mark Holden, Principal Designer
Steve Haas, Project Manager
David W. Robb & Sam Brandt,
Electro-Acoustic Designers

Client

River Center for the Performing Arts

"The new River Center for the Performing Arts is quite a place. The acoustics are incredible."
Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

"It is the most beautiful and perfect room in which we've ever installed an organ."
Fernand LeTourneau
Organ Builder

JaffeHolden.com

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