



## Concert Halls



## Severance Hall

Cleveland, Ohio

JaffeHolden consultants contributed their acoustical expertise to every aspect of the renovation of Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra—assessing the acoustical impact of new patron amenities being added to the front of the house, implementing strategies to ensure that the hall’s extraordinary acoustical intimacy would be preserved, designing a new permanent orchestra shell, and advising on the relocation of the hall’s Norton Pipe Organ, which had been silent since a 1958 renovation had sealed off the instrument in its loft far above the stage.

Before beginning design, JaffeHolden performed an exhaustive study of the old hall’s acoustics, making detailed acoustical measurements and extensively interviewing the orchestra’s music director, members of the board and the staff, and individual musicians. Equipped with this documentation, the acoustics team developed concepts for the orchestra shell and the repositioning of the pipe organ. Beyond designing the new shell and the chambers for the organ’s new, on-stage location directly behind the orchestra, JaffeHolden advised on a range of issues including selection of finishes and audience seats and the implementation of noise control measures for ventilation systems.

### Project Information

2,000-seat Concert Hall

### Scope of Work

Architectural Acoustics  
Mechanical System Noise Control  
Sound Isolation  
Concert Enclosure Consultation  
Organ Consultation

### Budget

\$36,700,000

### Completion Date

January, 2000

### Design Team

Architect: David M. Schwarz Architects  
Architect of Record: GSI  
Theater Consultant: Fisher Dachs Associates

### Consultant Team

Christopher Jaffe, Principal Designer

### Client

Musical Arts Association

“The new reverberation time matches that of Carnegie Hall and of Symphony Hall in Boston... Severance Hall’s sound is as seductive as it looks”

*The New York Times*

**JaffeHolden.com**

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