



MCKAY CONANT HOOVER INC  
Acoustics and Media Systems Consultants



Scottsdale, Arizona's first prominent arts and performing arts center, has undergone its first significant renovation in its 30 year history. The principal venue, the 838 seat Virginia Piper Theater was showing its age, especially when compared to its local competition of several new and refurbished fine theaters. MCH was commissioned to study the room's problematic acoustics and audio-visual systems and in order to optimize the venue for everything from chamber music to full symphonic concerts while maintaining its good reputation for jazz, world music and other eclectic and popular entertainment performance.



In the mid-1970s, the venue was among the earliest of performing arts spaces to be outfitted with an electronically-enhanced reverberation system to extend or shorten the room's apparent reverberation time. Due to a variety of reasons, including the relatively primitive technology available at the time, that system was abandoned not many years after opening, leaving the room with no acoustical ability to properly accommodate varying performance types.

MCH provided full-scope acoustical and AV consulting for the Piper, along with its fully refurbished multi-use, large atrium lobby. Completed for \$14M in October, 2009, it features greater capacity, new side gallery seating, an acoustically proper new orchestra shell and proscenium eyebrow, acoustical cheek walls, a fully upgraded AV system and is outfitted to accommodate the latest state-of-the art reverberation enhancement system.

Contact: William Peifer, SCPA Proj. Mgr. (480) 312-7869  
John Douglas, FAIA (480) 951-2242

Visit: <http://www.scottsdaleperformingarts.org/>

**SCOTTSDALE CENTER FOR THE  
PERFORMING ARTS - RENOVATION  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ**

