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Acoustics and Media Systems Consultants



Within the \$35M, 122,500sf Stephens Performing Arts Center, by Hummel Architects (opened in 2005), is the Jensen Grand Concert Hall (1200 seats), the Bistline Theater (450 seats thrust stage format), the 250 seat Rogers Black Box Theater plus several classrooms and associated support spaces. While the thrust stage is known for its unusually good speech intelligibility (irrespective of the actor's location or speaking direction), the Jensen is truly unique in both its growing acoustical reputation and the means by which its acoustics morph so well to suit the performance needs. It is the principle home for the University's several music programs supporting symphony (joint with the Idaho State Civic Symphony), choral, band and several jazz groups. MCH provided full-scope acoustical and audiovisual consulting for the entire facility. Extensive acoustical modeling was undertaken to optimize the design and to "dial-in" the principal acoustic parameters to average those of the 5 greatest halls in Europe and the USA. 2005 opening performances evoked the Director of Events, George Casper to say *"Without exception, each performer and performance group has made the comment that our venue was one of the finest acoustical venues that they had ever performed and one of the finest in the country."* And from Criag Jessop, Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, *"The Jensen is a jewel, with sound that rivals the best concert halls of the world."* The Bistline features a tension grid over the unusually deep thrust stage, 2 ringing catwalks over the audience and carefully considered upper wall shaping and sound reflectors at the lighting instrument plane to yield the unusually good speech articulation. The Black Box also features a tension grid and well-considered features that permit audience, actors and/or crew to occupy the perimeter catwalks during performance.

Reference: Prof. Thom Ritter George 208.282.2260
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STEPHENS Performing Arts Center
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