



SCHOOL THEATRE FOR MUSIC AND DRAMA

MULTI-USE AUDITORIUM

New 400-seat theatre is part of a large campus expansion to this private college preparatory school serving girls from infancy through 12th grade. This project involved planning, programming and conceptual design for a new performance auditorium for music and theater. After a pause for fundraising, project resumed to full-scale design and support services during construction phase. The overall intent for the new auditorium was to achieve a setting of spaciousness and envelopment. Challenges included coordinating a design to support equal focus on music and theatre.

The theater supports both straight dramas and musical theatre productions with as many as 60 cast and crew for the school's annual spring musical. In accommodating theatrical stage productions, a proscenium was desired for visual masking and wing space for sets and off-stage cast. While great for theatre, prosceniums present a challenge for music concerts where performance experiences are optimized when musicians play in the same acoustical volume as the audience. Prosceniums interfere with feedback from the audience chamber back to the performance platform. This feedback is an essential for musicians to know that their sound is getting to the audience. Combined with the ability for musicians to hear each other, audience connection is a particularly important factor for the student performer experience.

To enable the space to transform from a theatre to a concert hall, flexible elements included an adjustable proscenium, adjustable concert enclosure and adjustable sound absorption elements. The final result is a venue that effectively showcases and cultivates theatrical and musical talent.

CLIENT

Columbus School for Girls

LOCATION

Columbus, OH

PROJECT TYPE

New Construction

COMPLETE

2015

COST

\$6 M

SEAT COUNT

400

ARCHITECT

DesignGroup
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CONTACT

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SCOPE

Acoustics
Audio