

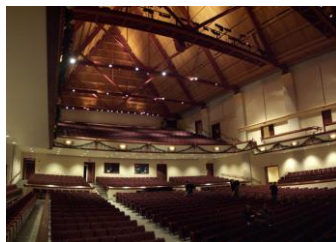
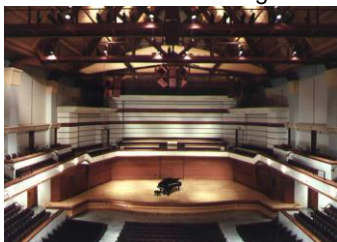
CONCERT HALL

BENSON HALL

New 1500-seat concert hall serves the college and local community as a setting for choral, chamber music performances and daily worship services. Featuring a large pipe organ, space acoustics was a large focus to enable the room's functionality.

Bethel's initial project vision was challenged with bid figures significantly exceeding available budget. The space was to offer a world-class acoustics, a cost-effective solution was reached by deferring pipe organ along with most of the sound, lighting and rigging systems. Design ensued with a focus on a high vaulted ceiling for space acoustics and system infrastructure with accommodations to support future upgrades. The resulting Hall's outstanding acoustics was a huge success and served as a fundraising catalyst to allow purchase and installation of state-of-the-art systems and 4,000 pipes, 67-rank Blackinton organ.

Placement of organ pipe work required a delicate balance of finding appropriate pipe locations to speak into the primary acoustical volume, minimizing interference with the existing raised choral terrace and creating a marriage between the existing architectural elements and the visual impact of the new organ. The organ addition required removal of a solid wall behind the choir. AD collaborated with the architects to develop extensions to the existing suspended ceiling over the platform and choir loft. Sophisticated acoustical modeling using custom in-house software was employed to predict the impact of the reflectors prior to construction. This helped predict a stronger choir presence compared to before the pipe organ addition – thus achieving the design intent.



CLIENT

Bethel College

LOCATION

Arden Hills, MN

PROJECT TYPE

New Construction

COMPLETE

1995

SEAT COUNT

1,500

CONTACT

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SCOPE

Acoustics