



Brad Feinknopf

## HISTORIC THEATRE & SYMPHONY HALL

# OHIO THEATRE

Acoustic study as part of a larger facility assessment of 2,779-seat Spanish-Baroque masterpiece built in 1928 was instrumental in restoring this historic landmark to be a vibrant multi-use performing arts venue and home of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. Originally created to show movies and live stage shows touring on the Loews circuit, it was a popular destination for top vaudeville performers. Time took its toll, and the decades deteriorated its structure and beauty. The Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) was formed in 1969 to save the historic landmark and engaged AD as part of the restoration effort in 1994. AD remained part of the restoration effort and has continued involvement on various consulting assignments over the years.

AD's team addressed acoustic enhancements including mechanical/electrical noise and vibration control, sound isolation and coordination of interior finishes to preserve the Hall's strong natural acoustics. AD's acousticians collaborated closely with AV system designers for new audio system design to assure uniform coverage to the main floor, balcony, and under-balcony space while taking special care that system components did not distract from the stunning visual aesthetics of the theatre's interior. AD also developed recommendations for upgrades to the original acoustical shell to address desires expressed by the symphony for stronger acoustics during concerts.

Assignments over the years have included work with CAPA to explore opportunities to reduce HVAC noise levels and a stage expansion project needed to better facilitate the large scale touring productions not anticipated in the theatre's original design. The most recent assignment involved coordination work as a resource for the design of the orchestra shell replacement. The new shell is part of the implementation of acoustic recommendations posed a decade ago. AD's team helped with the shell's planning, design, installation and commissioning. The new shell was installed and operational in Fall 2014.

### CLIENT

Ohio Theatre / CAPA  
(Columbus Asso. for the Perf. Arts)

### LOCATION

Columbus, OH

### PROJECT TYPE

Renovation

### COMPLETE

Services since 1994  
Orchestra Shell 2014

### SEAT COUNT

2,779

### ARCHITECT

Rogers Krajnak Architects, Inc.  
Peter Krajnak  
614.461.6243

### CONTACT

Todd Bemis  
CAPA VP Operations  
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### SCOPE

Acoustics  
Audio