

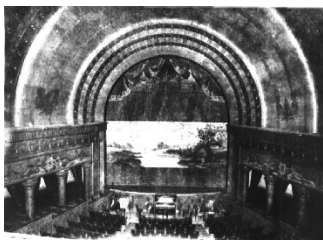
HISTORIC THEATRE RESTORATION

SOUTHERN THEATRE

Restoration and modernization of 1896 theater transformed the vacant theatre and movie palace to a multi-purpose music venue. The revitalized 933-seat Southern reopened as a beautiful, accessible, and lively link to the community's past and its bright future. The theatre presents CAPA concerts and performances and serves as the home venue for the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Chamber Music Columbus, and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra.

AD efforts focused on developing adjustable elements for different music genres without precluding continued use of the theatre for dramatic productions. The stage house volume was adapted as a partially coupled reverberation chamber to enhance the music acoustics. For accommodating the musicians, the performance platform was extended onto the forestage. After a thorough sightline study, recommended that the stage level be raised, and the main floor re-raked. In addition to improving sightlines, raising the stage level improved access to the stage from the higher street level just outside.

The Theatre is the oldest surviving theatre in central Ohio and one of the oldest in the state. Originally designed for theatrical touring productions, the theatre later accommodated silent films, vaudeville, first- and second-run motion pictures, dance, country music reviews, and community events. The Southern hosted performing celebrities, including singer Lillian Russell, actors Ethel and Lionel Barrymore, Maude Adams, Sarah Bernhardt, dancers Anna Pavlova and Isadora Duncan, John Philip Sousa, Al Jolson, George M. Cohan, Mae West, and W.C. Fields.



CLIENT

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

LOCATION

Columbus, OH

PROJECT TYPE

Historic Restoration

COMPLETE

1998

SEAT COUNT

933

ARCHITECT

Feinknopf, Macioce, Schappa Architects

CONTACT

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SCOPE

Acoustics