

ALDINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, HOUSTON, TEXAS

PROJECT CASE STUDY



ULTRASTOR™ INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS, SOUNDLOK™ SOUND-ISOLATION ROOMS, STUDENT MUSIC POSTURE CHAIRS, ROUGHNECK® MUSIC STANDS, VERSALITE® SEATED RISERS AND DIRECTOR'S STAND

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– Jeff Laird, District Director of Secondary Performing Arts



ULTRASTOR™ INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS



SOUNDLOK™ SOUND-ISOLATION ROOMS

CHALLENGE

Provide rehearsal and performance equipment for new music building.

WENGER SOLUTION

Planning proper storage cabinet configuration to accommodate program growth. Installing practice rooms to ensure optimal sound isolation. Assisting school personnel with product selection, ordering and post-installation service.

BENEFITS

- Storage cabinets protect valuable instruments
- Countertop cabinets offer flexible options
- User-friendly seated risers enhance performances
- Proper cabinet configuration speeds transitions
- Sound-isolating practice rooms minimize disturbances
- Sturdy, high-quality products provide years of service

HIGHLIGHTS

“When we started talking to Wenger about instrument storage for our new music building, it was really important that we had ample storage for our current needs and for the future,” says Gordon Haney, Band Director at Aldine Middle School in Houston, Texas.

“When the architect toured our old building, she literally had to walk over instrument cases and other things we kept on the band room floor,” recalls Haney. “There just wasn’t any other place.” Each day, students were dismissed from rehearsal early to allow enough time to navigate the small storage rooms.

Aldine Middle School’s new free-standing music building opened in the fall of 2011. The band program serves 150 students in grades 7-8; during the first year, the largest ensemble was 72 students.

“Our students were thrilled with the Wenger instrument cabinets,” notes Haney. He plans to use the countertop-height cabinets primarily to show students how to care for their instruments – maintenance and simple repairs. For students with larger instruments, the countertop also provides space for backpacks, school supplies and anything extra.

Choosing Wenger equipment for the new music building was an easy decision, according to Jeff Laird, District Director of Secondary Performing Arts.

“I’ve been a committed Wenger customer for almost 25 years, first as a band director and now as an administrator,” explains Laird. “I know it’s a cliché, but you really do get what you pay for. We’ve learned our lesson the few times we haven’t bought from Wenger.”

Haney says the Wenger SoundLok practice rooms have proven very popular for solo practice or small sectionals; five rooms are located along an interior wall of the main rehearsal room.

“The students really love using them,” he notes. “Because the sound isolation is excellent, students can practice without disturbing rehearsals.”

Overall, Laird says Wenger practice rooms are being added to seven campuses in the district – middle and high school – and many rooms will have VAE® (Virtual Acoustic Environments) technology.

“It’s a tremendous tool that makes students want to practice,” Laird explains, who adds that practice rooms with VAE technology see more activity. “Students enjoy simulating different acoustic environments,” he comments.

Aldine Middle School purchased Wenger Student Chairs and Classic 50 Music Stands. Haney says both products are sturdy and have held up very well. “The only problem I ever have is not having enough,” he comments.

Another reliable Wenger product is the Versalite Seated Risers, which are used in rehearsals and concerts to bring out the sound of the brass section.

The band travels with these risers several times a year, including to competitions. “The stages where we perform are often fairly deep, and without these risers the brass sound sometimes gets lost,” Haney explains.

“I’ve really enjoyed using the risers,” he remarks. “They’re solidly built but more user-friendly than our old platforms.” Students are able to help handle the risers, including switching leg lengths; Haney says the legs are easy to install and remove.

Along with the quality of Wenger products, Laird says he appreciates always receiving the highest level of personalized service.

“I never feel like I’m dealing with a big, impersonal company,” he exclaims. “Excellent customer support is one of the most impressive things about Wenger.”



TOURMASTER® CHORAL RISERS



DIRECTOR'S STAND

PRODUCT LIST

UltraStor™ Instrument Storage Cabinets, SoundLok™ Sound-Isolation Rooms, Student Music Posture Chairs, Bravo™ and RoughNeck® Music Stands, Move & Store Carts, Director’s Stand, Folio Cabinets, Versalite® and Trouper® Seated Risers and Tourmaster® Choral Risers.