

I.M. TERRELL ACADEMY FOR STEM AND VISUAL PERFORMING ARTS

FORT WORTH, TEXAS



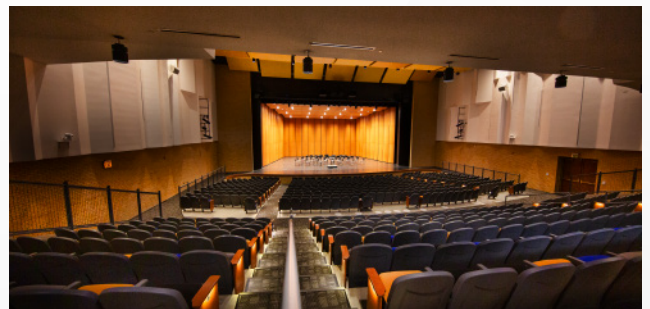
PROJECT PROFILE



NOTA® MUSIC POSTURE CHAIRS, ACOUSTICABINETS™ INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS, ROUGHNECK™ MUSIC STANDS, SOUNDLOK® PRACTICE ROOMS, FLEX® CONDUCTOR'S STAND

"The city itself needed it, not just the school."

- Christina Walk, Executive Director, Fort Worth
Independent School District Visual and Performing Arts



DIVA® FULL-STAGE ACOUSTICAL SHELL

CHALLENGE

The century-old school needed upgrading to serve the changing needs of its students, which had evolved over the years from a secondary school to a performing arts and STEM-focused high school. The school lacked a performance space and appropriate practice rooms for the band, orchestra, choir and other performing artists.

WENGER SOLUTION

Wenger Corporation provided comprehensive solutions for practice, rehearsal and performance spaces, including sound and storage equipment in the school, and a Diva® Acoustical Shell, custom J.R. Clancy hoists and J.R. Clancy motion control systems for the new performing arts center.

I.M. TERRELL ACADEMY FOR STEM AND VISUAL ARTS

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HIGHLIGHTS

Before becoming the renowned performing arts and STEM school that it is today, I.M. Terrell High School was a secondary school located in Fort Worth, Texas. The school opened in 1882 as the city's first public school for black students, during the era of formal segregation in the United States. The school was renamed I.M. Terrell High School in 1921, in honor of the former principal. Under the legacy of G. A. Baxter, the music program in the mid-20th century produced many of the prominent jazz and rhythm and blues musicians of that era. Since then, the school has been through extensive remodeling and expansions and is now the home of the I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and Visual and Performing Arts).

The campus combines the original historic school building with a new 65,000-square-foot performing arts center (PAC), connected by a unifying courtyard. It sits atop a hill with beautiful downtown views and is a beacon for the District and the community.

The PAC, featuring a 900-seat theatre, is the focal point, built to serve the many students focused on theatre, music and other fine arts within the school, but to also serve the surrounding community.

The PAC expansion team included the school's administration, Corgan Architects, WJHW Theatre Consultants, Batts Audio, Video and Lighting, Turner Construction and Wenger Corporation.

A New PAC

It was important to preserve the historical nature of the century-old school everywhere except the new performing arts center. The new center would house the latest technology and top-notch equipment to best serve the needs of the variety of performances held there.

"We have other performance venues in Fort Worth, but this would be the perfect size not only for the school but for the district and the community. We have various arts organizations that are always looking for affordable space," said Christina Walk, Executive Director, Fort Worth Independent School District Visual and

Performing Arts. "We worked with community partners who all agreed that the acoustics were important to make every type of performance sound great."

"We met with all of the different groups who would be using the space," explained Jason Mellard, Architect with Corgan. "We talked with every teacher, fine arts director, music director and others to make sure we met their needs."

WJHW recommended installing a Wenger Diva® Acoustical Shell with a maple veneer finish. The shell has ten towers and three rows of ceilings.

"We coordinated and communicated frequently with the theatre consultants and structural and mechanical engineers," Mellard said. "We needed to make sure we supported the weight properly, provided power where it needed to be and coordinated with the contractor to ensure conditions were correct before installing the shell. There's always an attention to detail required to ensure everything lines up perfectly."

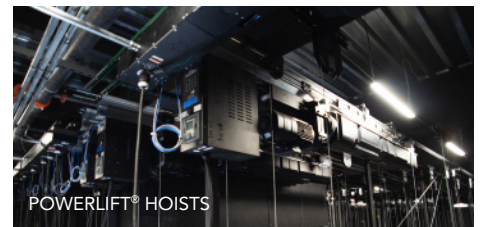
"The shell can be set up in any configuration very quickly and very safely," said Glenn Bennett, Director of Dance and Theatre with the Fort Worth ISD. He loves having a new space with the latest technology to use at the school and share with the community. "To be able to tuck those large units up into the fly loft when not in use is pretty amazing."

Mark Batts, CEO of Batts Audio, Video and Lighting (AVL) managed the theatre's rigging, choosing J.R.

Clancy products across the board.

They installed three

Titan® Hoists, 28 PowerLift® Hoists, a fire curtain line shaft hoist and a SceneControl™ 15 with a remote operating pendant.



"This is a premier performing arts space, so everyone wanted the best equipment," Batts said. "J.R. Clancy products fit the bill and the budget, which was a big benefit."

"We really appreciated that Wenger Corporation was very deliberate in making sure we knew how things worked," said Tim Brendler, Head of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at I.M. Terrell. "Our entire team appreciated that they walked us through every element and possible configuration. The flexibility that it affords us is wonderful."



The stage includes a custom-designed Wenger STRATA® Orchestra Pit Filler, which can be quickly installed with only a small crew. It provides strong support above and open space below with an innovative column-beam design. The acoustically dampened decks fit snugly against the stage to create an extremely quiet, integrated surface.

Black Box Theatre

A Black Box Theatre provides a separate, smaller performance space where Wenger's StageTek® Seated Risers and Staging equipment can be configured in a variety of ways.

There is also a portable sound system with different places to plug in the speakers and LED lighting with a dimmer rack to set the mood for any given performance.

"We can host a larger audience by placing seated risers around the entire room and then performing in the round," Brendler said. They have also hosted robotics competitions and small theatre productions. Similar to the shell in the theatre, he says the flexibility of the risers is key.

"It's great to have so many different levels," he said. "When hosting show choir competitions, we can quickly and easily manipulate the configuration."

Rooms to Make Music

The new wing also included band, orchestra and choral rooms. It was important for the school to have superior rehearsal rooms with built-in acoustic systems as well as smaller practice spaces to create an entire suite of practice, rehearsal and performance areas.

The band room houses Wenger Nota® chairs to ensure proper posture and Roughneck™ music stands which are durable enough to handle daily use. AcoustiCabinets® line the walls for efficient instrument storage, which include specially designed grille doors, acoustically absorptive material and reliable durability to produce storage that can help enhance the room's acoustical performance.

Teachers and students are most excited about the four modular SoundLok® Sound Isolation Rooms with VAE® technology that allow individuals and small groups to practice in their own private space, without interrupting nearby rehearsals. The rooms are 25 percent quieter than others and have the correct amount of absorption and diffusion so the musicians can clearly hear the best possible sound. Virtual acoustics options allow the students to learn how to adapt

to performing in different performance spaces and get immediate feedback with a record/playback function.

"Most teachers are in an environment where there are eight ensembles happening in the same room," Brendler said. "The modules we installed provide different spaces for ensembles and individual practice."

He says the rooms are used all day every day by students.

"They give the students a safe space where they can practice in private. The record, playback and other capabilities are fun and give them extra incentive to get their practice time in," he said.

The nearby choral room includes Nota® chairs, StageTek® risers, Rack 'N Roll® Garment Racks, four additional Soundlok® Sound Isolation Rooms and eight music library units.

Sound and video systems in the choral and band rooms have integrated processors connecting them with each other as well as the auditorium. If they host a large program or competition, the performers waiting in the band room can hear and see what is happening in the auditorium to gauge when it is their turn to perform.

"Everyone loves these rooms dedicated to the band, orchestra and choir," said Walk. "They were well designed, and the windows offer spectacular views of downtown Fort Worth."

Rave Reviews

The new PAC is stunning and impressive by all accounts. Wide hallways lead to generous specialty classrooms with all of the latest technology and useful equipment. Everything about it is impressive.

"The community loves it. The symphony and opera have played here, and the Texas Ballet Theater plans to return with their annual Nutcracker performance. When it opened, it was always packed and has made a tremendous difference for the district and the community," said Mellard.

"The Diva shell and the variety of spaces enable us to do what we love: collaborate to a higher degree at a professional level," said Brendler.

And the extra effort to get the sound right was well worth it.

"Everyone loves this space," said Walk. "If it didn't have excellent acoustics, it wouldn't have been worth building. From the practice rooms to the rehearsal spaces to the hall, everything sounds great."





ACOUSTICABINETS® INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS



STAGETEK® SEATED RISERS, NOTA® CHAIRS, WHITEBOARD, SOUNDLOK® PRACTICE ROOM



MUSIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



FIRE CURTAIN



STRATA® ORCHESTRA PIT FILLER

PRODUCT LIST

Wenger: Diva® Acoustical Shell, STRATA® Orchestra Pit Filler, Studio® Makeup Station, StageTek® Staging and Seated Risers, Portable Audience Seating, Nota® chairs, Roughneck™ music stands, SoundLok® Sound Isolation Rooms with VAE® Technology, AcoustiCabinets® for instrument storage, Rack 'n Roll® Garment Rack, Music Library Cabinets, Flex® Conductor's Stand

J.R. Clancy: SceneControl™ Motion Control System, Pendant Controller, PowerLift® Hoists, Titan® Hoists, Motorized Lineshaft Fire Curtain Hoist

ABOUT WENGER | J.R. CLANCY

Wenger and J.R. Clancy provide the widest array of innovative, high-quality products and services for the performing arts industry. Their advanced products provide the highest levels of safety, reliability and aesthetics, helping transform performance venues and engineer unforgettable experiences.



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