

CERRITOS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, CERRITOS, CA

PROJECT CASE STUDY



VERSALITE® STAGING, STUDENT CHAIRS AND ROUGHNECK® MUSIC STANDS

“We have nothing but good things to say about our Wenger equipment – everything has been excellent.”

– Tom Hamilton
Technical Operations Director



VERSALITE® STAGING



STUDENT CHAIRS & CHAIR MOVE & STORE CART

CHALLENGE

Provide flexible staging and other equipment to serve various needs at multipurpose performing arts center.

WENGER SOLUTION

Offering a variety of staging sizes and accessories. Customizing products to meet special requirements. Engineering ongoing product improvements to increase utility and customer satisfaction.

BENEFITS

- Versatility of staging perfectly complements facility's mission
- Durable construction withstands years of heavy use
- Improved leg clamp design increases platform stability
- Easy handling speeds setups – indoors and outdoors
- Assortment of leg lengths accommodates different events

HIGHLIGHTS

“We use Versalite almost daily around our facility, including auditorium, lobby, banquet rooms and outdoors,” explains Tom Hamilton, Technical Operations Director at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts (CCPA), in Cerritos, California. “It’s easy to handle, extremely flexible and has held up well over the years.”

Designed by architect Barton Myers and planned by Theatre Projects Consultants, CCPA is one of the most flexible theatres in the world, following the traditions of changeable theatres of the 18th and 19th centuries.

“Fifty percent of our interior structure is mobile,” explains Hamilton. “It’s like a puzzle we can assemble in different ways, including arena, theater-in-the-round and cabaret configurations.”

Hydraulic lifts and air casters allow the auditorium to take on five different configurations. Balcony seating is fixed, but floor seating consists of movable wagons that can be raised, lowered or removed completely. Large towers containing the box seats can be angled to face the stage in a number of positions. Overhead ceiling panels are also movable to suit different acoustical requirements.

The stage can be transformed into various sizes, either manually or by electronic controls. This unique flexibility is supported by an extensive inventory of Wenger staging – approximately 110 Versalite® decks, primarily 4’ x 8’ and 4’ x 4’ size. CCPA also has a limited number of smaller deck sizes, including 2’ x 8’, 2’ x 4’ and 2’ x 2’. Staging legs range in height from eight to 40 inches.

“The largest setup is our arena configuration, where we build a 48’ x 36’ stage 40 inches high,” explains Hamilton. “We also build band risers for pop and country shows.”

Even when in the arena setup, CCPA still owns enough additional platforms to simultaneously serve other areas of their facility. “Because it’s so flexible, we also use these platforms in our lobby for banquet head tables or podiums, in our conference room and theater or even outdoors in our garden and fountain courts,” explains Hamilton, adding that the platforms are easy for two people to handle.

CCPA’s Rigger/Master Carpenter, Rogan Girard, appreciates the customization Wenger offers. “We ordered a custom 2’ x 2’ hatch in a larger deck; it’s used to run cabling for power, speakers and microphones,” notes Girard. “In large stage setups the hatch provides a very clean look.”

He also appreciates how Wenger is always improving its products. “I’ve used three generations of Versalite leg clamps and the latest version is a big improvement,” Girard declares. “Wenger constantly reevaluates how to make its products better.”

Flexible, user-friendly equipment and versatile architecture have enabled CCPA to adapt to changing market and client needs, re-inventing itself more easily and targeting a wider variety of events than would be possible with a fixed configuration.

Most of the performing arts programming is during the fall, winter and early spring. “Given the realities of our programming budget, we decided to start our summer season a little earlier in order to get bigger pop music acts that are touring,” explains Hamilton. Some cabaret-style concerts are held in the more intimate Sierra Room on a 20’ x 24’ Versalite stage.

CCPA is also targeting more rental business, particularly during the spring months. The facility has become popular for high school proms because of the flexible configuration options and layout, including large banquet space and dance floor.

“I don’t know of any other facility our size – less than 2,000 seats – with such flexible configuration options,” Hamilton says. “We’ve been extremely pleased with our staging and have increased our inventory over the years, which is a compliment in itself. We’ll continue choosing Wenger.”



VERSALITE® STAGING, STUDENT CHAIRS AND ROUGHNECK® MUSIC STANDS

PRODUCT LIST

Versalite® Staging, Musician Chairs, RoughNeck® Music Stands, Music Stand Lights, Conductor’s Podium, Conductor’s Stand, Backstage Makeup Stations, Tourmaster® Risers, Move & Store Cart and Diva® Acoustical Shell Towers.