

# CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

## PROJECT CASE STUDY



SIGNATURE RISERS, VERSALITE PLATFORMS AND STUDENT CHAIRS

***“The cabinets and Rack ‘n Rolls are worth their weight in gold because we can organize everything so well.”***

– Robin Rogers  
Choral Director



GARMENT STORAGE CABINETS AND  
RACK ‘N ROLL® GARMENT RACK



MUSIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

## CHALLENGE

Plan and equip music suite in new high school – including rehearsal and storage rooms – and improve auditorium acoustics.

## WENGER SOLUTION

Providing essential information for facility design and product selection. Supplying various risers to suit available space and different needs, including traveling. Offering storage solutions to protect and organize apparel, accessories, instruments and sheet music. Enhancing auditorium acoustics for performers and audience alike.

## BENEFITS

- Music suite layout facilitates instruction, organization and traffic flow
- Riser closure panels provide aesthetic, functional benefits
- Storage cabinets accommodate various garments and accessories
- Full-stage acoustical shell helps unify and project sound in auditorium
- User-friendly risers maximize versatility and configuration options
- Solid, comfortable music chairs offer posture support
- High-density sheet music storage improves organizational efficiency
- Durable products ensure longevity and value for investment

## HIGHLIGHTS

“I was on the building committee for this new school and found Wenger’s Planning Guide for Secondary School Music Facilities to be very helpful,” recalls Robin Rogers, Choral Director at Charleston County School of the Arts (CCSOA) in North Charleston, SC. “It showed us how to lay out the music rooms and how the Wenger products would work together.”

Because his choirs had used Versalite risers at other facilities, such as during all-county choir festivals, Rogers knew he wanted them in CCSOA’s two choir rooms. He appreciates how the closure panels keep everything looking clean; the carpet also helps muffle noise.

“We find the Versalite very easy to work with – we reconfigure it in many different ways,” Rogers explains, adding that a set of black 4’ x 8’ Versalite platforms is used at concerts for choreography. The school’s choirs all perform a variety of music, sometimes involving movement. Rogers believes music education should involve all students, singing all different kinds of music.

CCSOA also owns Tourmaster risers for traveling and Signature risers for concerts in the school auditorium; Signature risers are also used daily in the choir rooms. Rogers claims these risers are lightweight and open easily. “For concerts we roll our Signature risers to the auditorium, pull them out and set them up,” says Rogers. “It’s a piece of cake – they’re wonderful!”

He believes Wenger risers will last a lifetime if cared for properly. “I’ve also seen riser knock-offs – other companies making similar-looking risers,” Rogers explains.

“I don’t care for the design or stability – Wenger risers are much more solid.”

Rock-solid strength is also a feature he appreciates with their Student Chairs; he’s used Wenger chairs for almost 30 years. “They’re comfortable and sturdy – even for the largest football players.”

Band Director Basil Kerr Band Director Basil Kerr prefers the Nota chair for his students. “It immediately reinforces good posture, especially for wind instrumentalists,” he says. “You can’t slouch in it.” He believes Nota chairs support proper breathing, enabling wind players to perform more efficiently.

Kerr also likes the Classic 50 music stands, which he describes as “surprisingly sturdy, yet lightweight.” He continues, “Students can be rough on equipment and these stands can take a licking.”

For storing robes and uniforms, including dresses and tuxes, CCSOA relies on Wenger cabinets and four Rack ‘n Roll garment racks. “These storage solutions are worth their weight in gold because we can organize everything so well,” Rogers declares. To distribute new dresses recently, he pulled a Rack ‘n Roll out into the classroom for easy access. Later he just rolled it back into storage. They also roll easily to the auditorium, even over door thresholds.

Rogers appreciates the variety of cabinet styles to fit tuxedo jackets pants, robes and dresses. “Wenger helps organize everything – including smaller items like vests and cummerbunds,” he states.

Along with looking good, Wenger helps CCSOA music groups sound wonderful. According to Rogers, the auditorium’s Diva acoustical shell is “phenomenal – a singer’s dream.” The shell makes the acoustics strong and live, enabling the musicians to hear better and produce a better sound. “You can hear well anywhere onstage – there are no dead spots,” he adds. “Being able to hear other parts helps unify the sound.” The shell benefits all of CCSOA’s ensembles – choir, orchestra and band.

“In my career I’ve worked with numerous Wenger products,” Rogers concludes. “Wenger makes awesome, solid products that stand the test of time.”



MUSIC LAB WORKSTATIONS

## PRODUCT LIST

Versalite® Seated Risers; Signature® and Tourmaster® Choral Risers; Garment Storage Cabinets; Rack ‘n Roll® Garment Racks; Instrument Storage Cabinets; Folio Cabinets; Music Library System; Music Sorting Rack; Music Lab Workstations; Diva® Full-Stage Acoustical Shell; Music Posture Chairs, including Nota®, Student and Cello Models; Classic 50® Music Stands, Conductor’s System, Percussion Workstation, OnBoard® Cargo Cart and Versalite® Seated Risers.