

CORK SCHOOL OF MUSIC, CORK, IRELAND

PROJECT CASE STUDY



TOURMASTER® CHORAL RISERS

“Our management team had years of experience with Wenger equipment and knew it to be the best available.”

– Dr. Geoffrey Spratt, Director

CHALLENGE

Furnish world-class performing arts college, including auditorium, black box theater, rehearsal spaces and classrooms.

WENGER SOLUTION

Providing specifications, room layout drawings, quotes and other details to general contractor. Offering expert consultation on product features, options, quantities, accessories and optimal riser/platform configuration. Ensuring customer satisfaction with custom chair fabric.



BENEFITS

- Posture chairs offer comfortable support for performers and audience alike
- Mobile, flexible risers maximize versatility, both on- and off-site
- Superior quality ensures years of trouble-free use
- Chair and stand carts speed transitions, improve logistics
- Easy handling and assembly saves time

HIGHLIGHTS

“There was no question of choosing any other brand but Wenger,” states Eamonn Comerford, Facility Manager at Cork Institute of Technology’s Cork School of Music (CSM) in Cork, Ireland, which moved into its €65 million, 13,000-square-meter facility in September 2007.

After working with furniture and equipment from multiple suppliers at their previous facility, Comerford says CSM staff was fully convinced that Wenger seating and other equipment were ideally suited to musicians, more so than any other products they had tried.

CSM’s Director, Dr. Geoffrey Spratt, agrees. “Our management team had years of experience with Wenger equipment and knew it to be the best available.”

More than 570 Symphony chairs are used throughout the facility. The chairs onstage in the 500-seat Curtis Auditorium are reconfigured daily depending on the required setup for rehearsals or concerts. Performing groups range from big bands to choirs to symphony orchestras.

During performances, up to 248 Symphony chairs can serve as audience seating, arranged in rows on the floor of the auditorium and fastened together with ganging clamps.

“Using the Move & Store Carts, two people can set out all these chairs in approximately 40 minutes,” notes Comerford, who adds that Wenger was very flexible when it came to added features like chair numbering, unique fabrics and colors.



REHEARSAL RESOURCE CENTER

Along with Symphony chairs, CSM also has a large number of Musician and Cello models. “Our musicians and students are extremely happy with all the Wenger chairs,” says Comerford. “As a music school, it’s of course very important that our chairs are suitable for musicians.”

In CSM’s small classrooms, Musician chairs with tablet arms are used regularly as desks, particularly during exam time. “They’re also used as ordinary chairs for larger groups or recitals held in our large classrooms,” adds Comerford.

When they’re not moving chairs and music stands around the facility, CSM’s Move & Store Carts are generally kept near the performance spaces where they are used. Along with the Curtis Auditorium, events are held in the Stack Theatre, Doolan Room and main foyer.

During performances in the Curtis, Versalite platform risers are used regularly onstage to raise people at the back of the stage or accentuate a piano as a centerpiece.

“We use both our Versalite and Tourmaster choral risers in our foyer for small groups giving lunchtime concerts and other events,” explains Comerford, who says that these risers are transported to other venues around Cork when their bands, choirs or other groups are touring.

He claims their Wenger equipment offers two primary benefits. First, the easy assembly and handling saves time. Second, the superior quality ensures years of use.

“We don’t want the added cost of replacing this furniture too often and the Wenger products appear to be very robust,” explains Comerford. CSM has been in operation nearly two years and everything is holding up extremely well, without any complaints, damage or breakage.

“Our building, its fleet of over 60 new Steinway grand pianos, and the thousands of items of Wenger equipment, have won many awards and been acclaimed as a world leader,” concludes Spratt. “More importantly, thousands of students are flourishing as they use the instruments and equipment on a daily basis.”



SYMPHONY CHAIR

PRODUCT LIST

Tourmaster Risers, Versalite Platform System, Musician Chairs with Tablet Arms, Symphony Chairs with Donor Plates and Ganging Clamps, Cello Chairs, Bravo Music Stands, Director Stands, Move & Store Carts, Percussion Workstations and Rehearsal Resource Centers.