

NEW LONDON-SPICER SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NEW LONDON-SPICER, MINNESOTA

Wenger® | RCLANCY

PROJECT PROFILE



MAESTRO® ACOUSTICAL SHELL SYSTEM

"It has a WOW factor that we only dreamed of."

- Megan Field
New London-Spicer School
Communication Director



CHALLENGE

Create a school district multidisciplinary arts center with state-of-the-art acoustics.

WENGER SOLUTION

The Maestro® full-stage acoustical shell system, is cost-effective and loaded with features, stunning performance aesthetics, and space-saving conveniences. Wenger Corporation also rounded out the facility providing an orchestra pit filler, counterweight rigging system, and integrated lighting and architectural control solutions.

BENEFITS

- Space saving design
- Flexibility to accommodate performances of all sizes
- Easy reconfiguration with a crew of three people
- Maximum stability and safety

HIGHLIGHTS

Until now, the New London-Spicer School (NL-S) did not have a dedicated stage. Musical performances took place in hallways, classrooms, or the same gym where audiences sat on hard bleachers cheering for their favorite basketball players. For years, the school's theatre students were bused to an off-site location where the school rented space from the Little Theatre in New London.

"Knowing that our district will continue to grow, the concept of a multi-purpose space was important to our community," said Megan Field, the NL-S Communication Director. "We wanted to make sure that our Performing Arts Center was used for more than just theatre performances."

To create a venue that would function for a variety of performances from band and choir concerts to plays, musicals, and professional events, the Center needed flexibility. At the heart of its design, Wenger proposed the Maestro full-stage acoustical shell. The Maestro is Wenger's cost-effective full-stage shell solution and comes loaded with acoustical features, stunning performance aesthetics, and storage and set-up conveniences.

The Maestro's wood veneer shell has a space-saving design with individual towers that nest together when they're not in use. This not only saves valuable space backstage, it also allows for easy reconfiguration with a crew of three people to accommodate performances of all sizes. Each of the towers is counterweighted for maximum stability and safety while delivering the most impressive full-stage acoustics that can also create an environment for entertainment.

To prevent sound from getting lost in the fly loft, the Center opted for Maestro ceiling panels with integrated light fixtures suspended from a counterweight rigging system. These panels are also adjustable and easy to set up with as few as two people. Maestro ceiling and tower panels are constructed with a rigid honeycomb interior, a hard panel skin, and black aluminum edging to guarantee exceptional sound, quality, and durability.

"The shell adds additional beauty to the stage and plays an important piece in the sound quality of our theatre," Field said. "We have been very happy so far. We actually leave the shell up more often than not."

In addition to Maestro, Wenger Corporation also rounded out the facility providing an orchestra pit filler, counterweight rigging system, and integrated lighting and architectural control solutions.

To make the most of the theatre space, NL-S needed to ensure they had properly trained their staff for set-up, strike, and use of the new equipment. Training will be ongoing, and NL-S has a professional, part-time technician to help instruct students and new users on how to safely run the theatrical equipment.

When the doors of the Performing Arts Center finally opened in May 2018, everyone agreed that the new NL-S Performing Arts Center had been worth the wait.

"It has a WOW factor that we only dreamed of," Field said. "NL-S has so many talented students in a variety of avenues and this space allows us to showcase their hard work and achievements."

PRODUCT LIST

Maestro® full-stage acoustical shell system, lighting integration and architectural control solutions, orchestra pit filler, and counterweight rigging system.

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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