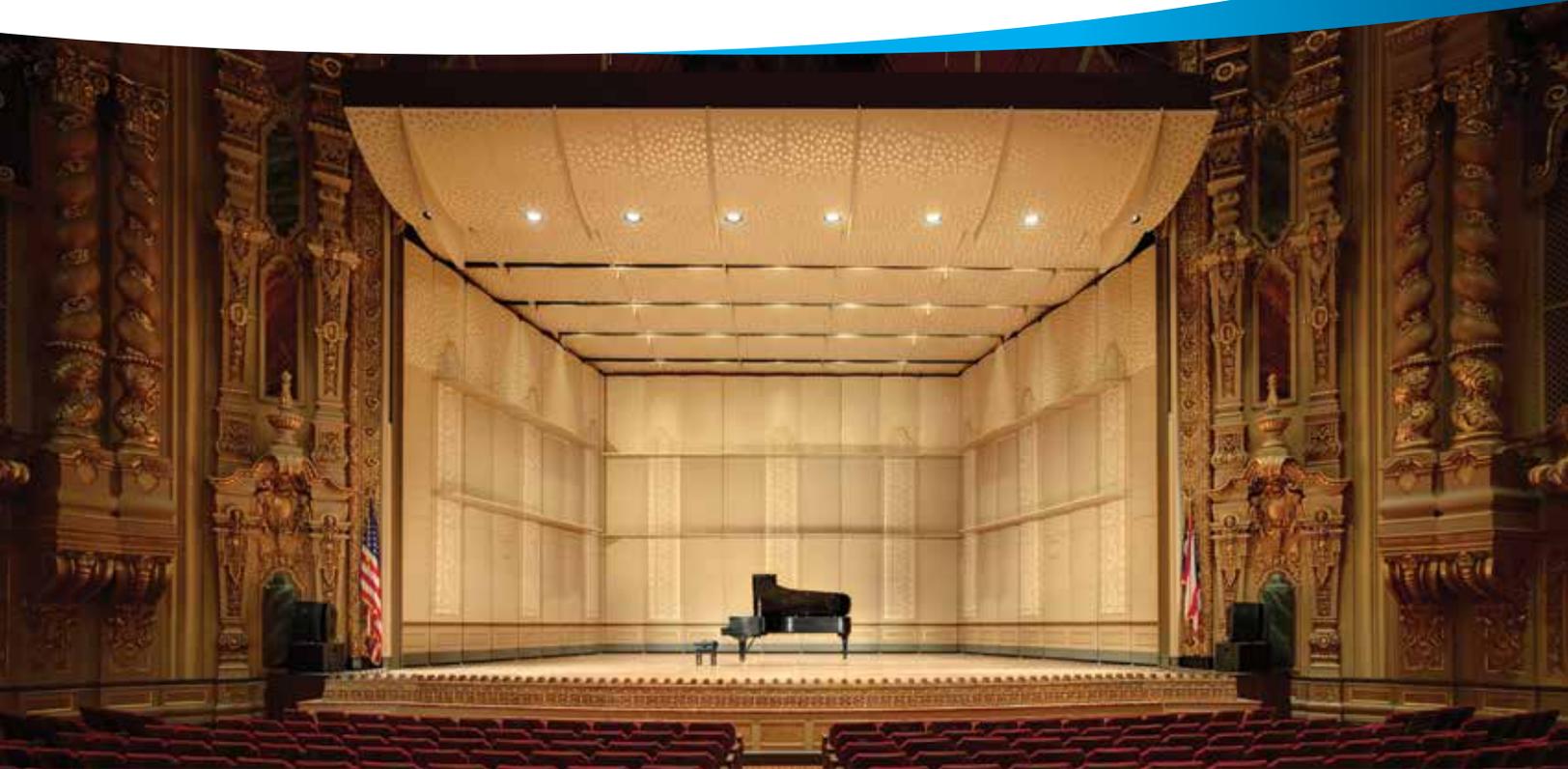


OHIO THEATRE COLUMBUS, OHIO

PROJECT PROFILE

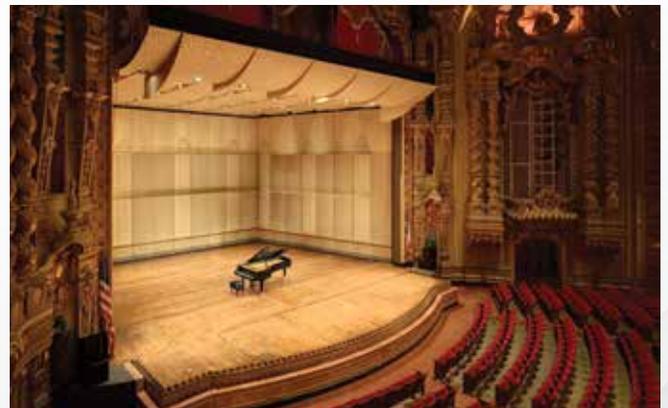
Wenger



DIVA® FULL-STAGE ACOUSTICAL SHELL TOWERS, FORTE™ ACOUSTICAL SHELL CEILINGS AND CUSTOM FORESTAGE REFLECTOR

“Wenger worked with us and our acoustician to ensure our efforts would ultimately focus on providing the best classical music for our community.”

– Anne Melvin, Honorary Trustee,
Columbus Symphony Orchestra



CHALLENGE

Design full-stage acoustical shell for multi-purpose historic theatre.

WENGER SOLUTION

Creating custom towers, ceiling panels and forestage reflector in partnership with project team. Utilizing combination of two acoustical shell technologies to better suit weight requirements. Engineering innovative storage solutions to accommodate range of events.

BENEFITS

- Enhanced acoustics for performers and audience
- Shell's visual elements complement theatre interior
- Early project involvement ensures cost-effective solution
- Expertise in acoustical shells and rigging adds value
- Fast, flexible shell setup speeds logistics, reduces labor costs
- Creative storage solutions conserve space, ease transitions

HIGHLIGHTS

"Wenger did an amazing job on our Diva shell," says Anne Melvin, Honorary Trustee of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and a primary donor for the shell. "The improved acoustics benefit the audience, musicians and conductors."

Years earlier, Melvin and her husband (the late Noel Melvin) had attended the classical masterworks series with the prior shell in place; it traced back to 1980. She knew the musicians could not hear each other; this inability made it impossible for them to play cohesively. While a board member, Melvin also began to attend pops concerts without any shell used or with the orchestra pushed to the back of the stage.

"Our largest paying audiences were not getting the quality of performances they deserved," she recalls. "There was not a properly designed acoustical environment for the performers."

"Musicians felt they were playing in a black hole," adds acoustician David Kahn, Principal with Acoustic Distinctions, a firm that has worked with CAPA for more than 20 years. (The nonprofit CAPA owns and operates the Ohio Theatre, along with four other venues.) This theatre's small proscenium opening made it challenging to acoustically couple the stage and audience seating areas. Kahn's firm recommended enlarging the existing shell, flattening its ceiling and extending it out further over the forestage.

Ten years later, when Melvin generously offered to fund a new shell, the project became a collaboration between Rogers Krajnak Architects, Acoustic Distinctions, the Columbus Symphony, CAPA, Wenger and Tiffin Scenic Studios.

"Because everyone worked together from the beginning, the result was a much more successful, cost-effective solution," comments Kahn. "The Wenger-J.R. Clancy partnership adds value by bringing rigging expertise and understanding."

Aesthetically, a primary goal was visually uniting the shell and theatre with common architectural elements. Operationally, CAPA wanted the new shell to be much easier and faster to work with, to speed changeovers and reduce labor costs.

"In the truest sense, our theatre is a roadhouse," says Jason Gay, Head Carpenter. "We present everything from speeches to ballet to a classic movie series to Broadway touring productions."

"During certain times of the year, we're like a factory, with multiple events in and out," he explains. "The Diva shell's fast, flexible setup is really a positive for us." It takes a four-person crew four

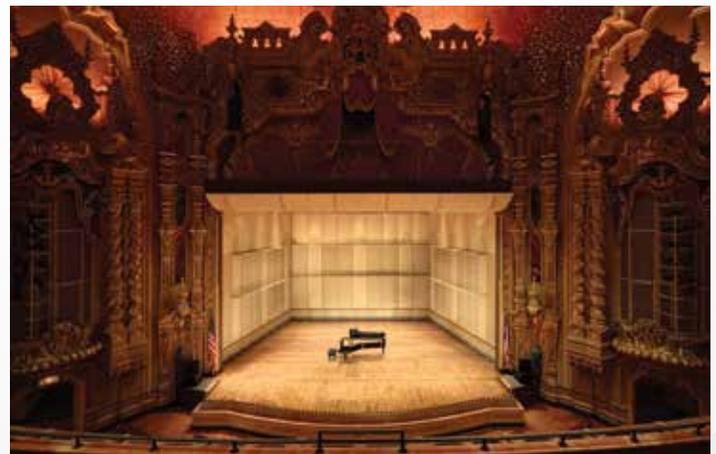
hours to make the space concert-ready, and half that time if only working with the shell. The entire shell consists of 12 towers, six ceiling panels and a forestage reflector.

Because large Broadway shows require as much stage deck and rigging space as possible, Wenger was challenged to develop creative storage solutions. To remove the ceiling panels from the rigging hoist, Wenger designed carts for the ceilings; these carts can hang from the upstage grid. "They've worked out beautifully," comments Gay. "Wenger's engineers were very instrumental." Wenger also developed a mechanism to hang the 12 towers from the grid with bolt-on brackets.

When evaluating acoustical shell manufacturers, Gay firmly believes Wenger is the company of choice. "We needed our new shell to last 30 or 40 years," he comments. "Other orchestra enclosures I had experienced from other companies seemed to have flimsy construction."

Along with technical and operational improvements, the new Diva shell has dramatically enhanced the acoustics. "For the audience, the orchestra sounds brighter," explains Gay, adding that musicians onstage can also hear other better.

"When you go with Wenger, you get the results you're after – and Wenger stands behind their work," concludes Todd Bemis, Vice President of Operations with CAPA. "Wenger's reputation is well-respected and well-deserved."



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PRODUCT LIST

Diva Full-Stage Acoustical Shell Towers, Forte Acoustical Shell Ceilings and Custom Forestage Reflector.



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WENGER CORPORATION Phone 800.4WENGER (493-6437) Worldwide +1.507.455.4100 | Parts & Service 800.887.7145 | Canada Office 800.268.0148 | wengercorp.com
555 Park Drive, PO Box 448 | Owatonna | MN 55060-0448

JR CLANCY Phone 800.836.1885 Worldwide +1.315.451.3440 | jrclancy.com | 7041 Interstate Island Road | Syracuse | NY 13209-9713

GEARBOSS Phone 800.493.6437 | email gearboss@wengercorp.com | gearboss.com | 555 Park Drive, PO Box 448 | Owatonna | MN 55060-0448