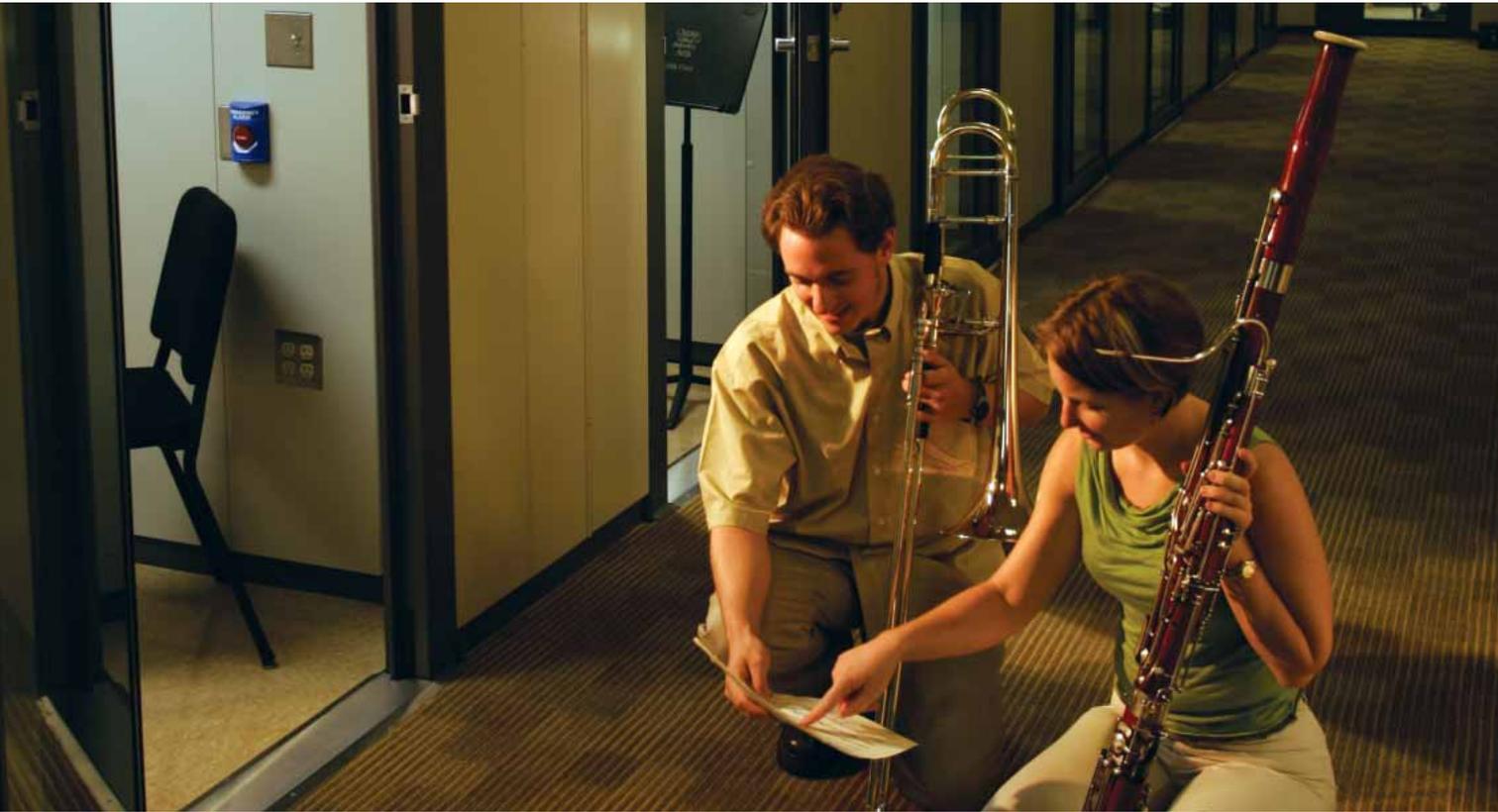


UNIVERSITY CENTER STUDENT RESIDENCE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PROJECT CASE STUDY



SOUND ISOLATING PRACTICE ROOMS



"Students can use the rooms for practicing whenever they want, without disturbing anyone else."

- Cathy Maxwell
Director of Facilities

CHALLENGE

Create effective individual and small group music practice space within a residence hall, without disturbing other residents and activities.

WENGER SOLUTION

Installing sound-isolating music practice rooms in coordination with residence hall construction.



BENEFITS

- Guaranteed sound isolation
- Relocatable, modular design
- Easily upgraded to active acoustics

HIGHLIGHTS

“Our residents really like the practice rooms and use them a lot,” says Cathy Maxwell, Director of Facilities at University Center in Chicago, Illinois. “The rooms are fantastic!” The nation’s largest multi-college student residence hall, University Center is a joint project of Columbia College Chicago, DePaul University and Roosevelt University. The 18-story building, which houses over 1,700 students, opened in August 2004. Wenger installed 19 sound-isolating music practice rooms in the second floor, which also includes the dining center, recreation area, fitness center and art studio.

“Students can use the rooms for practicing whenever they want, without disturbing anyone else,” explains Maxwell. Rooms are kept locked, and keys can be checked out from the resident services desk, which is staffed 24/7. “These practice rooms help reduce some roommate conflicts – students can practice at 3:00 a.m. in their pajamas if they want to,” says Maxwell. She believes that smaller families and larger homes today mean most college students never shared a bedroom growing up. “In the past, I think roommates were more flexible and accommodating,” notes Maxwell.

Student schedules are also more unpredictable today. In addition to attending class, more students are working and these rooms enable them to practice after their jobs and school – even late at night – without disrupting anyone else. Because the rooms are modular, Maxwell says University Center may consider reconfiguring several smaller rooms to create a larger one, primarily to better accommodate music groups that need more space. “It’s nice to have this flexibility,” she says.

Create An Integrated Learning Environment

A Sound-Isolating Music Practice Room with Wenger’s optional Virtual Acoustic Environments™ (VAE) technology is the next generation of teaching/ practice tools for music education. It’s already adding value to music programs across the country. By selecting from nine acoustical simulations, musicians can learn how to optimize their performance in different environments. Benefits include accelerated development of critical listening skills; improved articulation, dynamics and timing; and a more enjoyable practice session.

The integrated digital record/playback capability enables teachers to easily evaluate an individual student’s performance or provides musicians the opportunity for self-critique. The VAE technology records up to nine sessions totaling 60 minutes in length and downloading is possible through the built-in USB connection, such as for audition or competition recordings. Accompaniment music may also be uploaded.



PRODUCT LIST

Sound-Isolating Music Practice Rooms