

# Andy Dekaney High School, Houston, Texas

## PROJECT CASE STUDY



DIVA® ACOUSTICAL SHELL



SIGNATURE® CHORAL RISERS



VERSALITE® STAGING



REHEARSAL ROOM EQUIPMENT

## CHALLENGE

Outfit music suite in new high school including auditorium, rehearsal rooms, practice rooms and instrument storage.

## WENGER SOLUTION

Giving prompt, responsive service throughout selection and ordering process. Planning optimal configuration of instrument storage cabinets, seated risers and practice rooms. Delivering and installing equipment, including full-stage acoustical shell, and providing necessary training.



INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS



SIGNATURE® CHORAL RISERS

***“The first words out of my mouth with our architects and project designers are always, ‘We need to use Wenger products.’”***

*– Rick Ghinelli,  
Performing and Visual Arts Director*

## BENEFITS

- Well-designed, durable equipment ensures years of service.
- Improved auditorium acoustics for musicians and audience.
- Flexible platforms and risers offer versatility for rehearsal and performance.
- Ergonomic music chairs promote proper posture.
- Guaranteed sound isolation supports quality instruction and practice.

## HIGHLIGHTS

“The first words out of my mouth with our architects and project designers are always, ‘We need to use Wenger products,’” says Rick Ghinelli, performing and visual arts director at Spring Independent School District in Houston, Texas. “If there are objections, I respond by saying that if we don’t use Wenger products, we’re going to spend more later to fix the problems than if we had just used Wenger in the first place,” he explains.

During Ghinelli’s nine years in this role, the district has opened four music facilities – at three middle schools and Andy Dekaney High School. His own personal experience with Wenger products dates back to his time as a band director.

“Architects know I’m going to be relentless about acoustical issues,” he states. “If the music areas aren’t acoustically sound, they are useless and we’ve wasted a lot of money.”

For enhancing auditorium acoustics, a Diva full-stage acoustical shell was purchased. “While the Diva is a sizeable investment, it wasn’t hard to justify,” recalls Ghinelli. Choir director Jamie Abrams comments, “The Diva is perfect for our performance hall. It allows the naturally good acoustics of the building to be enhanced for the performer and listener alike without altering the sound in any way.”

Along with this shell, Abrams’ choirs use three-step Signature risers for most performances. “I appreciate the risers’ easy handling,” she says. “I can put them up myself without even breaking a sweat and they lock into place very easily.” Both choir and band use Wenger Versalite platforms extensively. “We like to have different platform configurations and leg heights,” remarks Ghinelli. “The interchangeable legs provide terrific flexibility.”

District middle schools are using Versalite platforms – along with skirting, backdrop and frame – to create flexible, portable stages in theatre classrooms.

Wenger Student Chairs are used throughout the music suite, earning rave reviews. “They make it very easy to sit correctly and comfortably with good singing posture,” says Abrams. Ghinelli adds, “Our Wenger chairs are durable, they look good and they support proper posture. I also like how they stack together, whether on Move & Store Carts or just to slide out of the way. They’re very efficient to work with.”

For instrument storage, Ghinelli appreciates the many different cabinet options Wenger offered – doors, sizes – and assistance in planning the proper layout. “Wenger cabinets are our first choice because they hold up well and look good,” he states. “Wenger has been around a long time – they’ve worked out all the kinks.”

Dekaney has five Wenger sound-isolating practice rooms. Ghinelli considers the practice room decision to be an instructional issue – not a product or aesthetic decision – especially when practice rooms are located inside a rehearsal hall. “You cannot provide quality instruction in the main rehearsal room or practice effectively in the practice rooms if sound bleeds through. It doesn’t work – the rooms are useless.”

For music practice rooms, Ghinelli says that sometimes the contractor or architect thinks they can build a practice room to be as sound-isolating as a Wenger room. “We keep trying to tell them it will not work – we have never seen a non-Wenger room measure up.”

His confidence extends to other products and to his Wenger sales representative. “Everyone from Wenger has been absolutely great,” declares Ghinelli. “Anybody in a position like mine who knows about Wenger products is always going to try first for Wenger.” He concludes, “Wenger’s the best – they really have a good thing going.”

## PRODUCT LIST

Diva® Acoustical Shell, Signature® Choral Risers, Instrument Storage Cabinets, Nota® Music Posture Chairs, Classic 50® Music Stands, Move & Store Carts, Stereo Cabinet and Versalite® Seated Risers and Platforms, and Sound-Isolating Practice Rooms.