

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - PARKSIDE, KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

PROJECT CASE STUDY



ULTRASTOR™ INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS

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– Alvaro Garcia, Associate Professor of Music and Music Department Chair



ULTRASTOR™ INSTRUMENT STORAGE CABINETS



VAE®-READY SOUND-ISOLATION PRACTICE ROOMS



MUSIC LIBRARY

CHALLENGE

Meet specialized equipment needs of new music and theatre facilities.

WENGER SOLUTION

Installing music practice rooms and storage solutions for instruments and sheet music. Customizing cabinet configuration to suit needs and available space. Designing seating setups for black box theatre and providing platforms for other campus uses.

BENEFITS

- Superior sound isolation enhances music practice
- Future technology upgrade possible
- Flexible theatre configurations foster creativity
- User-friendly platforms speed setups and changeovers

HIGHLIGHTS

“In the remodeling of our music building, I knew we needed new practice rooms,” says Alvaro Garcia, Associate Professor of Music and Music Department Chair at the University of Wisconsin – Parkside (UWP) in Kenosha, Wis.

The old built-in practice rooms leaked sound badly, so the Music Department suggested Wenger modular practice rooms. “The architects agreed it was almost impossible to fabricate a small practice room with adequate sound isolation,” recalls Garcia.

Wenger installed 15 practice rooms – four sized for ensembles and the rest for individual musicians.

“The Wenger practice rooms are fantastic!” comments Garcia. “They’re very popular with our students.” Someday UWP hopes to add Virtual Acoustic Environment (VAE) technology that offers record/playback capability and acoustical simulations.

Along with improved practice rooms, UWP’s remodeled music facility also includes new instrument storage cabinets in a variety of sizes.

“This gives us flexibility and maximizes our limited storage space,” remarks Garcia. “The cabinets are holding up very well and the grille doors enable me to quickly take inventory.”

Sheet music storage is also improved with the Music Library System. After the first 25 units were quickly filled, UWP ordered 15 more to allow room for growth.

“The Music Library System is working out fine,” Garcia says. “It’s easy to use – the drawers roll in and out easily – and it holds a lot.”

As a director, Garcia appreciates the Conductor’s System’s double podium, stand and chair. Two podium heights provide versatility and the bar prevents him from stepping off backwards. The podium’s wheels provide easy mobility; the large Plexiglas stand holds many different size scores; and the chair is very comfortable even for long rehearsals.

UWP music students also benefit from posture-supporting chairs – Student models for rehearsal and padded Musician models in the concert hall.

“The special posture attributes of Wenger chairs provided an exception to the furniture offered by other state contracts,” recalls Garcia. “It also helped to receive a volume discount for ordering other Wenger equipment.”

For its new black box theatre, UWP’s theatre department selected Wenger Versalite® platforms for audience seating with Portable Audience Chairs.

- Instrument cabinets offer security and maximize available space
- Grille cabinet doors enable quick visual inventory
- Posture-supporting chairs benefit director and students
- Sheet music storage provides high capacity, easy access

“Versalite is a wonderful system,” comments Keith Harris, Theatre Facilities Manager & Scenic Designer at UWP. “We’re able to configure our new black box to match any show we’re doing.”

Based on the room specifications, Wenger designed four different setups UWP requested: theater-in-the-round, three-quarter thrust, a proscenium-style setup and a corner configuration.

Wenger labeled the Versalite decks and wedges required for each, ensuring that fire codes were met and including the proper aisles. Closure panels, guardrails and skirting were also ordered; Harris believes Versalite looks nice either way – with or without skirting.

To maximize seating capacity, UWP selected platforms three feet wide; capacity ranges from 150 to 175.

“The beauty of a black box is being able to adapt the theatre’s configuration and seating to match the show you’re doing,” Harris remarks. “Versalite’s flexibility and fast setup enables us to quickly get on with the business of making art.

“We’re also really happy with the Portable Audience Chairs – they’re comfortable and good-looking,” he adds. Harris likes how the seats fold up automatically, facilitating easier access. Instead of ordering all chairs in the same color, UWP varied four different colors throughout the theatre.

UWP purchased extra Versalite platforms for its main stage, to provide a touring group with a drum riser or something similar. UWP’s rehearsal halls each feature a mini stage built from Versalite, along with a small lighting package. “We reconfigure these stages often,” explains Harris. “We can be ready in 15 minutes.”



PORTABLE AUDIENCE CHAIRS, VERSALITE® PLATFORMS AND RACK ‘N ROLL® GARMENT RACK

PRODUCT LIST

VAE®-Ready Sound-Isolation Practice Rooms, UltraStor™ Instrument Storage Cabinets, Music Library System, Flex® Conductor’s System, Musician and Student Music Posture Chairs, Bravo™ and Preface™ Music Stands, Signature® Choral Risers, Whiteboards, Rack-n-Roll® Garment Racks, GearBoss® Shelving with Worktops, Versalite® Seated Risers and Portable Audience Chairs.