projects

bailey performance center

"The Bailey Performance Center is simply a gorgeous instrument -- as any musician relishes the unlimited scope of a special instrument, so any performing ensemble will celebrate the warm and vibrant acoustic atmosphere this exciting new hall affords. The Bailey Performance Center is a Georgia jewel."
--Donald Runnicles, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the San Francisco Opera; Music Director of the Grand Teton Music Festival; Principal Guest Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; General Music Director Designate of the Deutsche Oper Berlin; Chief Conductor Designate of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Client: Kennesaw State University
Seat Count: 700
Project Type: New Construction
Opening: 2007
Cost: $9 Million
Architect: Stevens & Wilkinson, Stang & Newdow
Contact: Harry Price | Dean | 770.499.3496 | Bobby Asher | Artist Director | asher.bobby@gmail.com
AD Scope: Acoustics | Auditorium Design | Audio | Video | Lighting

Kennesaw State University's new concert hall is designed to accommodate a wide range of programming, including large orchestras, ensembles, and choirs - in addition to jazz, amplified music performances, and lectures. Tremendous adjustability in the acoustics is provided by a series of doors around the performance platform that control how much sound can enter into the large volume that wraps around and above the performance platform and seating area. There are also many retractable curtains around the room, allowing the auditorium to be to appropriately scaled and tuned for the needs of each particular performance.

The greatest design challenge for Kennesaw State University's new concert hall related the goal to create an acoustical environment to accommodate large wind ensembles and a full orchestra in a room with seating for only 700 people. To add to this challenge was a very limited construction budget. We accomplished this goal by using precast concrete exterior panel construction which provides a very effective barrier to outside noise, and provides an excellent acoustical boundary to support a rich reverberant sound inside the hall with excellent warmth of tone. The visual boundaries of the room are created with a wood grille that hides more than half of the total room volume from view.

The initial design concept featured a main, single side entry at the back of the concert hall. This inspired AD's asymmetrical design concept for the room.