

projects



kleinhans music hall

Client: Kleinhans Music Hall Management, Inc.

Location: Buffalo, New York

Project Type: Renovation

Seat Count: 2,800

Opening: 2010

Architect: Hamilton Houston Lownie

AD Scope: Acoustics | Sound Isolation | Noise Control | Audio Systems

The Kleinhans Music Hall is the home of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Over the last decade \$12M had been spent on renovations to the 2,800 seat hall, however there had not been any particular focus on the acoustics of the hall. The orchestra recently commissioned Acoustic Dimensions to conduct a study to evaluate the acoustical quality of the hall. One of the goals of the study was to answer questions such as the potential benefit of orchestra risers, the impact of carpeting in the audience seating area and interior wall finishes in the hall.

The acoustical qualities of a performance hall are determined primarily by the shaping of the room's interior. Because of the landmark status of Kleinhans, changes to the interior to improve the acoustics were not possible. We did recommend replacing the sound absorbing perforated wood wall finishes with sound reflective finishes, and removal of the carpeting in order to increase reverberation and therefore address the primary complaint which was that the hall sounded too dry. We also recommended that consideration be given to an electronic enhancement system, which simply put, is a system which is able to electronically change the architectural shaping of the hall. The benefits include an improvement in the sense of envelopment and spaciousness, characteristics which are lacking in the room's natural acoustics.

ACOUSTIC DIMENSIONS