



## southern theatre

**Location:** Columbus, Ohio

**Seat Count:** 933

**Original Construction:** 1896

**Renovation Opening:** 1998

**Architect:** Feinknopf, Macioce, Schappa Architects

**Contact:** Jay Panzer | Director of Facility Development | 614.224.4003

**AD Scope:** Acoustics | Sound Isolation | Noise Control

The Southern Theatre originally opened in 1896 with a seating capacity of 1,700. It included a full stagehouse and orchestra pit to support a broad range of elaborate productions. The Columbus Association for The Performing Arts (CAPA) hired AD to participate in the renovation and restoration of the theatre, which reopened in 1988. Much of the unique architecture and decoration has been restored, with modifications to the second balcony and main floor seating.

Because a majority of the programming for the renovated theatre is music, we focused our efforts on developing adjustable elements to accommodate music, without precluding continued use of the theatre for dramatic productions. We adapted the stagehouse volume as a partially coupled reverberation chamber to enhance the music acoustics. In order to best accommodate the musicians, we extended the performance platform onto the forestage. After a thorough sightline study, we recommended that the stage level be raised, and the main floor re-raked. The reduction in the room volume has been more than compensated by the introduction of the reverberation chamber. In addition to improving sightlines, raising the stage level improved access to the stage from the higher street level just outside.