

Invitation



Does technology offer us a wider range of solutions than before? Do these technologies work? Do they save money? How does this relate to the present and future generations of audiences? How is technology offering designers of performing arts facilities a more flexible kind of creativity?

On behalf of The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Acoustic Dimensions (Acoustical Consultancy) and Engineering Harmonics, we cordially invite you to an informative presentation and demonstration of technology in action. Learn and experience how our approach towards carefully applied state-of-the-art technology serves as an effective means to preserve the vitality of performing arts centres. Join the discussion on ideas to keep centres relevant for the future.

Date: September 23rd
Location: Winnipeg Centennial Concert Hall
Manitoba Canada. (The real centre of Canada)

This day will be dedicated to sharing the solutions we found to fortify the vitality of this amazing venue. We will discuss and explore tactics for:

- Adapting to current and anticipated future programming
- How existing venues can stay relevant with audiences of today and tomorrow

In 2018 the Hall will celebrate its 50th birthday and anticipates implementing additional improvements over the next coming years. Read more about the Hall on page 2 of this invitation.

Keeping our Theatre and Concert Hall Buildings Preserved & Relevant for the Future

Insight, experience and technology changes our thinking, but questions remain.

Anticipated Schedule

11:00-12:00	Arrive and mingle with other guests; Enjoy a cup of coffee while the orchestra rehearses in the background
12:00 - 13:30	Light lunch and informal introduction of hosts and participants
14:00	Welcome by Dennis Perko , Director Centennial Concert Hall and Mr. Phaneuf director of the Winnipeg Symphony. They are available to answer questions
14:25	ACS explanation about what an ACS system is able to offer. Arthur van Maurik
14:30	Short demonstration of the ACS system with live music, Brass Quintet
15:00	Design parameters, considerations and selection by David Kahn
15:30	Coffee/Tea Break
16:00	Delivering on the changing values of consumers and the role of Engineering Harmonics in technology projects by Mr. Phil Giddings P. Eng., President
16:30	End of Afternoon Program, time for a drink.
20:00	Start of the evening concert

Invitation & Exploration



A Prime Example

Winnipeg Centennial Concert Hall opened over 40 years ago to serve as a permanent focus for the performing arts, science and cultures of Canada's wide spectrum of people. While known as a Concert Hall, it is also a multi-purpose auditorium that serves the local symphony, opera and ballet company. It also hosts a wide range of touring productions with a focus on Broadway-style musicals and other heavily amplified productions.

At the time of construction in the late 1960s, it was ahead of its time in many aspects. The Auditorium offers significant adjustability to accommodate symphonic music, opera, dance, and amplified music. Even today, this hall is more successful than many newer multi-purpose Auditoriums that accommodate similar programs. Nevertheless, there were opportunities for improvements.

Changes and Thinking

The Hall is subjected to heightened expectations of the current and future generations of audiences whose quality awareness differs from the Hall's audiences of the 1970's. The acoustic environment for unamplified productions (symphony, opera, ballet with pit orchestra) fell short of optimal and the symphony's musicians, one of the hall's primary constituents, desired an environment supporting a stronger acoustical impact to project sound into the seating area as well as an environment on stage, more like a "pure" concert hall, where musicians feel like they are in the same space as the audience.

Technology and Insight

Acoustic Dimensions conducted studies and recommended solutions to these issues. Some entailed costly construction modifications which typically are a challenge from a funding and logistics standpoint. Recent developments in acoustics and electro-acoustics posed an interesting alternative. The technology had dramatically improved over the last decade and allowed an innovative way to increase the flexibility of the hall's acoustics and provide opportunities for improvement in the quality of almost all of the hall's programming and not just the symphony.

RSVP

If you would like to attend this meeting & demonstration, respond to:

avm@acs.eu before or on September 19th.
Acoustic Control System, Nederland.

A limited number of complimentary concert seats are available for The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's evening performance. Let us know how many ticket you would like when responding to this invitation.

For more information please contact:

David Kahn dkahn@ad-ny.com - Acoustic Dimensions + 1 914 212 1300

Arthur van Maurik avm@acs.eu + 31 577 462251
(beware of the time difference)

Thanks and hope to see you there!

Technology and Insight Advantages

Better yet, system implementation entailed a much shorter turn-around time than conventional construction modifications and allowed for nearly immediate significant improvement in the audience's experience of all types of performances.

This project is a success story of how modern technology and creative thinking provides significant improvements to the acoustics both for the performers and the audience. It poses additional wins because costly infrastructure modifications can be avoided and structures of living history can be preserved, vibrant and relevant for future audiences.

But, Questions Remain ...

DVD, i-Pods, i-Phones bring entertainment to consumer fingertips. They offer quality and convenience that audiences will come to expect in live concert situations. With entertainment more accessible than it has ever been, what will draw people out of their homes and away from their personal screens to experience live performances? What do Performing Arts venues need to do to remain vibrant?

