

Sound and Audio-Video Solutions for a Theatre Revival

Company:

Franklin College

Project Overview:

Custer Theatre was being underutilized due to lack of technology

Solution:

Implementing new sound and audio-video technology



Project Overview:

Franklin College has been a leader in liberal arts education since it was founded in 1834. The highly dedicated faculty delivers a broad liberal arts curriculum, hands-on learning experience and a commitment to ethical leadership to its tight-knit student body. As a liberal arts institution, the performing arts are at the center the College's core disciplines with strong theatre and music programs. However, Custer Theatre, a jewel box theatre in a prized location in the heart of Old Main Campus, was being underutilized due to an aging sound system and lack of audiovisual technology.

"When we needed sound amplification we relied upon an antiquated pair of speakers plugged into a guitar amp mixer with a single microphone," said Casey Hayes, Ph.D. A.J Thurston chair of music, music department chair and director of choral activities.

With space at a premium on a small campus, a quality sound and audio video technology were crucial for the ability to better utilize the space. Through the long-standing collaborative relationship with the Custer Foundation, Franklin College received a \$30,500 grant for sound and audio video improvements.

Franklin College partnered with Tech Electronics for the solution design and implementation. "We chose to work with Tech Electronics because we have partnered with them on previous projects, they are very friendly, thorough and professional," said Ginger George-Nelis, Academic Technology Coordinator for Franklin College.

Solutions:

"Through site surveys and interviews with several staff members, we were able to design a sound and audio video solution that would enhance the performers and audiences experiences in the theatre," said Jeff Watson, Director of Tech Electronics of Indiana.

The new solution equipped Custer Theatre with:

- **Line Array loudspeakers** – placed on each side of the stage for orchestra seating
- **Fill speakers** – to provide a desirable listening experience to the balcony section
- **Power Amplifier** –
- **Wireless Microphone Systems**
- **CD player with Bluetooth capabilities**
- **AV control system** – in sound booth
- **Projector and motorized screen** – capable of being operated on the stage or sound booth.
- **Back of the House Control Panel** – allowing the system to operate from the stage location without needing access to the sound booth. The local input plate consisted of a VGA with audio and HDMI input

The new solution allows for Franklin College to continue providing students with an exceptional performance experience. The system has enhanced vocal and instrumental concerts, allowing the space to be utilized by faculty for academic courses as well as by the college community to host large guest speakers and public programs.

Customer Feedback:

"We have seen multiple benefits since the new solution was implemented. Our experience with Tech Electronics was fantastic as usual. They communicated very well and consistently. They also provided training on the new system to ensure we knew all of the functions. The solution has resolved the issues we were facing."

**Ginger George-Nelis, Academic
Technology Coordinator,
Franklin College**