



NashvilleSymphony
SchermehornSymphonyCenter

SSC Architectural and Acoustical Fact Sheet

PROJECT	Schermerhorn Symphony Center
LOCATION	One Symphony Place (130 Fourth Avenue South) Nashville, TN
SCHEDULE	Groundbreaking: December 3, 2003 Topping-Off: April 26, 2005 Grand Opening: September 9, 2006
PROJECT COST	\$123.5 million
DIMENSIONS	197,000 square feet

DESIGN / CONSTRUCTION TEAM

ARCHITECT	David M. Schwarz/Architectural Services, Inc., Washington, DC David M. Schwarz, principal
ACOUSTICIAN	Akustiks, LLC., Norwalk, CT Paul Scarbrough, principal
THEATRE PLANNER	Fisher Dachs Associates, New York, NY Joshua Dachs, principal
ARCHITECT OF RECORD	Earl Swensson Associates, Inc., Nashville, TN
CONSULTING ARCHITECT	Hastings Architecture Associates, LLC., Nashville, TN
ORGAN BUILDER	Schoenstein & Co., San Francisco, CA Jack Bethards, President
LIGHTING DESIGNER	SBLD Studio, New York, NY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	Hawkins Partners, Inc., Nashville, TN
OWNER REPRESENTATIVE AND PROJECT MANAGER	Mercedes Jones
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER	American Constructors, Inc., Nashville, TN

DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

EXTERIOR

The design of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center is inspired by Nashville's tradition of Neo-Classical architecture, yet updated with contemporary details. Measuring 301 by 274 feet, the four-story structure features a 29-foot-high north entrance flanked by columns that echoes the city's grand civic buildings. Five main public entrances allow access to all levels of the building.

The classic façade features 26,000 pieces of Indiana limestone, South Dakota granite and marble, 302 windows and 36,500 square feet of copper roofing. Contemporary touches, such as streamlined balustrades, cornices and parapets, and stylized detailing subtly update the timeless design. On the west side of the building, a 125-foot colonnade encloses a landscaped garden and café area facing Hall of Fame Park.

INTERIOR

Encompassing 197,000 square feet, the Schermerhorn Symphony Center features the Laura Turner Concert Hall and the Mike Curb Family Music Education Hall, as well as the Allen Walter Watson, Sr. Founders Hall, the Giarratana/Novare Green Room, and a Board Room.

The intimate 30,000-square-foot Laura Turner Concert Hall is designed in the classic "shoebox" form, with a relatively narrow, long and tall shape. A varied ceiling height, rising from 51 feet over the stage to 61 feet over the orchestra floor, enhances sound clarity for performers and the audience.

Interior finishes include Brazilian cherry and hickory wood flooring and African makore wood. Decorative metalwork in the concert hall and throughout the building are made of nickel silver.

The hall features 1,844 seats distributed over three levels, including a special choral loft behind the stage for 132 chorus members or audience members during non-choral performances. The performance platform accommodates 115 musicians.

The concert hall is one of the few nationwide to feature natural interior light through 30 special soundproof windows. Another innovation is a unique motorized convertible seating system, which can transform rows of raked orchestra level seats at classical performances into a flat 5,770-square-foot hardwood, ballroom floor for cabaret-style events such as pops and jazz concerts.

The 3,000-square-foot Mike Curb Family Music Education Hall features special programs for schoolchildren, small recitals, pre-concert lectures and other public presentations.

The space features a 14-foot ceiling and large windows that fill the room with natural light.

Another design highlight of the project is the incorporation of meaningful iconography throughout the building. Images of musical instruments, Tennessee's state flowers (passionflower and iris) and references to Nashville's architectural heritage can be found on exterior and interior railings, keystones, grill panels and canopies.

ACOUSTICS

The concert hall was a collaborative effort among the architecture, theatre planning and acoustic design teams. The result is a striking design that integrates form, function, ornament and acoustical quality. The narrow geometry of the floor plan coupled with multiple side tiers of audience seating promote great sonic clarity, while the tall ceiling will ensure a warm and rich resonance for orchestral, choral and organ music. Finely crafted architectural ornament helps balance and distribute the sound evenly to every seating location. Massive wall, floor and roof constructions help exclude unwanted noise from the outside world. The design of the hall synthesizes the best of old world traditions, contemporary acoustical design techniques and modern construction materials to create a responsive instrument for the Nashville Symphony.

The acoustical design also features an automated system of moveable banners and panels distributed around the Laura Turner Concert Hall. This system can fine-tune the acoustics for pops, cabaret, jazz, country, blues and other forms of music, giving the hall a range of acoustical flexibility that is uniquely appropriate for a hall in "Nashville Music City."

The hall also features a custom-built concert organ comprised of 47 voices, 64 ranks and 3,568 pipes with three 32-foot stops. The organ has been designed with a rich palette of tonal colors that can blend seamlessly with the orchestra or stand out against it depending upon the musical demands of the work being played. The vast majority of the instruments will be housed in an elegant wood case in the choral terrace overlooking the platform. Two auxiliary chambers at the sides of the orchestra floor near the stage will house portions of the pedal division, allowing these pipes to speak with additional authority and impact. While the instrument will be suitable for a wide range of repertoire, it will be especially well suited to orchestra and organ works from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.