

Woldingham School, Surrey - Performing Arts Centre



Hall set up for assembly

Woldingham is one of the leading girls' Independent boarding and day schools in the UK. In keeping with that status, the Millennium Centre for Performing Arts contains some of the best music facilities in any school in the country - a recital room, a MIDI computer room, keyboard studio, music classrooms, practice rooms and a digital recording studio as well as a drama studio and classrooms.

At the heart of the building is the 600 seat auditorium, which is used for classical music, theatre, amplified music, opera and musicals. It is also the School's main space for assemblies and worship. To cater for this wide range of uses in a single auditorium, the design includes a series of moveable acoustic reflectors which adjust the effective volume of the auditorium as well as automatically revealing or concealing large areas of acoustic absorption to adjust the acoustics for speech or music.



Hall set up for concert



Hall set up as proscenium Theatre

Similar reflectors over the stage provide a partial orchestra shell to reduce the loss of sound in the flytower and to provide useful early reflections to help ensemble in the orchestra. A lightweight acoustically reflective back wall reflector and moveable wooden proscenium panels provide both acoustic and visual adjustment of the whole hall and create an exceptionally flexible venue.

Client : The Board of Governors of Woldingham School
Architects : Donald Insall Associates, London
Theatre Consultant : Michael Holden Associates
Contract value : £6.5m