

University of Southern Maine, Crewe Center for the Arts

Acoustic and AV Design for the New Home of the Osher School of Music

VISION

A new home for the Osher School of Music with a 200-seat Performance Hall, flexible Arts Lab, and practice rooms tuned for both instruction and performance.

PARTNERSHIP

Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team, worked with Perkins Eastman, Oak Point Associates, and Theatre Projects on instructional and concert-level acoustics.

VALUE-ADD

NC-15 background noise levels, tuned reflectors, and a building-wide Dante audio network give USM a facility built for teaching, recording, and performing.

ARCHITECT

Perkins Eastman

ARCHITECT OF RECORD

Oak Point Associates

THEATER CONSULTANT

Theatre Projects

ACOUSTICS/AV

Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team

PHOTO CREDIT

Tim Griffith

The Crewe Center for the Arts at the University of Southern Maine is a new 43,000-square-foot facility on the Portland, ME campus and home to the Osher School of Music. The building includes a 200-seat Performance Hall, an 80-seat Arts Lab with retractable seating, a Rehearsal Hall, classroom spaces, and multiple practice rooms supporting instruction, rehearsal, and performance. Jaffe Holden, a Trinity Consultants team, provided acoustic and AV systems design for the \$63 million project, working alongside Perkins Eastman, Oak Point Associates, and Theatre Projects to balance instructional needs with concert-level performance expectations.

VISION

The University of Southern Maine set out to give the Osher School of Music a purpose-built home on its Portland campus—a 43,000-square-foot facility centered on a 200-seat Performance Hall, an 80-seat Arts Lab with retractable seating, a Rehearsal Hall, classroom spaces, and multiple practice rooms. Flexible planning elements, including a large Skyfold partition at the Arts Lab, needed to let spaces adapt to different uses, while the mechanical systems had to achieve NC-15 background noise levels suitable for music education and performance.

PARTNERSHIP

Jaffe Holden provided acoustic design across the facility, working alongside Perkins Eastman, Oak Point Associates, and Theatre Projects to balance instructional needs with concert-level performance expectations. The team coordinated closely with Perkins Eastman on room geometry and adjacencies, with Oak Point Associates on structural and mechanical isolation detailing, and with Theatre Projects to align the Performance Hall's technical infrastructure with its acoustic design. That cross-discipline coordination extended to the Arts Lab, where a large Skyfold partition needed to divide and combine spaces without sacrificing acoustic isolation, and to rehearsal and practice spaces, which employ high levels of isolation and tailored interior treatments to support varied ensemble types.

VALUE-ADD

Audio and video systems were designed to support teaching, recording, and performance across the building. The Performance Hall's shoebox-inspired geometry, wood finishes, and diffusive surfaces were shaped to support warmth and clarity for chamber music and voice, with suspended acoustic reflectors tuned to deliver early reflections for improved ensemble communication and audience intimacy. Adjustable acoustic drapery allows the room's response to shift between unamplified and amplified uses. A building-wide Dante digital audio network allows high-quality audio to be captured and routed between rooms, enabling recording, monitoring, and streaming, while installed microphones, monitoring, and infrastructure throughout classrooms and studios support the full instructional cycle—from rehearsal and performance to recording and hybrid learning. The result is a facility that gives the Osher School of Music the same caliber of acoustic and technical environment found in professional performance venues.

ABOUT TRINITY CONSULTANTS

Trinity Consultants, a leading global environmental consulting firm, provides services and solutions in the EHS Regulatory Compliance, Built Environment, Life Sciences, and Water & Ecology markets. Founded in 1974, Trinity has the technical expertise, industry depth, and capabilities to help clients achieve their goals across the natural and built environments.