

NEWS

theatres. They really aren't used to amplified concerts and so it is not an easy job in trying to create the right atmosphere in a stadium, particularly as far as focusing the crowd's attention on the stage is concerned. Pulling off such an event successfully as a sound engineer gives one such incredible satisfaction, as the instruments are very delicate and the mics can pick up a mosquito. When you plug in a 250kW system, you have to be very careful how you use it. But with the DIGiCo console's new software, the results were excellent.'

Having used three DIGiCo D5 Live consoles for the Pavarotti & Friends charity concert in Italy last year, Tramontani chose the console to handle the overhead mics serving the Regio Theatre's orchestra with a bug mic pre-mix, another of the soloists and choruses produced by Giovanni Staffoni. All the desk's inputs were used, plus those on its local DigiRack. Although some outboard compressors had been brought along ready for use on the voices – particularly the sopranos – they were not needed. 'The D5's powerful onboard features are very flexible, particularly as far as patches, communications and sub groups are concerned, said Tramontani. 'With a four-hour show like this, you can't risk anything going wrong. Mistakes that may slip by un-noticed at rock and pop concerts won't be tolerated at such a show if they occurred. But apart from some weather problems, everything went extremely well and the event received huge media coverage.'

www.seoulsound.co.kr
www.digiconsoles.com

Sacred audio install

SINGAPORE: When the Singapore's Sacred Heart Church was earmarked for a redesign, few of its congregation thought it would take the 18 months needed from drawing board to the re-opening of its doors.

Built in 1910, the church has gained the status of a heritage building and as such cannot be altered in any manner, unless the plans are given the approval of the government. Following six months of planning procedures and re-submitted plans, the building contractors delayed the installation of a new air conditioning system due to its excessive weight. Further delays were incurred as the church's power supply was found to be inadequate for both the new air conditioning and lighting systems. The audio installer, Rytech Marketing, was then given permission to proceed with the

fitting of a new audio system – in a large room with poor acoustics. Fortunately, the drapes hung to block the incoming sunlight helped to diminish the audio resonance.

The sound system was supplied by Electro-Systems and incorporates two Nexo LS1200 subwoofers in combination with four Nexo PS10 and PS15 cabinets powered by two Camco DX12 and DX24 amplifiers. The cabinets had to be fixed to the church's walls by drilling extra deep holes and adding epoxy resin hardener, as the sandstone walls crumbled very easily owing to Singapore's high humidity. The loudspeaker management is maintained with a Nexo PS15 and PS10 TD controller, while the various musical acts and sermons are mixed through an Allen & Heath 16-channel Wizard console. Although little equalisation was ultimately required, a dbx 480 Driverack was installed with an LA Audio DIX DI box. Belden loudspeaker and microphone cables were used throughout.

In contrast to the complications that arose from the church's air conditioning, power and lighting delays, the audio installation took just 10 days to fully integrate and troubleshoot to the church's complete satisfaction.

Electro-Systems, Singapore:
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NHK's kanji intercom

JAPAN: State broadcaster NHK has ordered a Telex/RTS Adam digital matrix intercom system with specially-designed key panels that are capable of eight-character kanji displays. The ability of the key panels to display kanji allows NHK not only to streamline its production and communications operations, but also to have more flexibility in displaying descriptive names for increasingly complex intercom assignments. The order includes a four-frame Adam matrix that can support more than 400 users, as well as hundreds of the custom key panels. Variations of Telex's KP-12 series, the key panels also display a mixture of hiragana and katakana characters, making them the first to display a complete set of Japanese characters, as well as English numbers. 'These new key panels were designed specifically for NHK and the Japanese broadcast market,' says Talal Aly-Youssef, chief engineer for Telex's Audio Communication Group. 'When used with our digital-based Adam intercom system, these technologies will provide NHK with an even stronger edge as it moves toward a



Melbourne jazz venue, Manchester Lane has undergone an extensive refit involving a large Funktion-One speaker system.

digital broadcasting future.'

NHK has begun an effort to fully transition to HDTV by 2009, and this significant upgrade to its intercom and communications capabilities is occurring at a key phase in those efforts, as the broadcaster is forming the core of its digital terrestrial operations. 'Digital broadcasting requires new sets of skills and capabilities, and technology that can keep pace with the changes in day-to-day operations,' said a chief engineer at NHK. 'Our engineering department has had a long history of success with Telex equipment, and we were confident that Telex was the logical choice to use as the foundation of our digital broadcast infrastructure.'

Capabilities for advanced audio distribution and Voice over Internet Protocol applications were key specifications of NHK. Consequently, Telex has added the RVON-8, a VOIP card that expands connectivity to the Adam intercom by supporting eight audio channels (ports) in and out. Each channel has configurable network and bandwidth parameters that can be tailored to individual network functions. The RVON-8 card supports both Telex Intelligent Trunking over IP as well as future support for remote key panels and virtual key panels via VOIP.

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www.nhk.or.jp
www.rtsintercoms.com

Jazz has new Funktion

AUSTRALIA: Manchester Lane is one of Melbourne's oldest and well-known jazz venues. After many years of operating with a difficult acoustic and average sound, the owners decided it was time for a major renovation. Venue owner Robert Wise (of The Adidem Group which also owns The Body Shop in

Australia) and architect Luke Mackley contacted Stephen 'Stig' Moor of Centre Stage Australia to design and install a sound system that would compliment the new look Manchester Lane.

After much research into budget, venue format and impact on the ever-increasing number of nearby residents' Moor presented four designs – primarily based on cost. An afternoon was arranged for Wise to listen to each option. He quickly decided that the Funktion-One system gave the sound he was after – and the purple cabinets matched the venue's new colour scheme.

When considering the system design Moor and John O'Donnell of Funktion-One Australia wanted to provide the best overall solution for the venue, taking into consideration room aesthetics and sightlines. 'What was important here was the nature of the venue,' said Manchester Lane's general manager Gavin Wall. 'This is not a club, but a live jazz music venue. There is no heavy bass requirement. We needed clean, full-range, high-fidelity sound.'

The room starts quite narrow with a low ceiling. The stage is small and about 14 inches high, enclosed on three sides. Skeletal Res 4s speakers were flown horizontally on either side of stage as the main system. As there was no room for either F218s or F118s, two 212-minibass cabinets were mounted in a cavity at the front of the stage. The Res 4s project about 55 feet to line up with the first delay speakers. At this point the room gets wider and has a rake up to a second level. The AX88 has the perfect vertical dispersion to cover this area. Two AX88s were flown in a left/right configuration from the ceiling, with an F118 flown in the centre. Past the

raked seating area is a smaller third level. Whilst they get plenty of sound from the AX88 system, a single F88 was installed, centre, to even out the sound pressure level and to enhance the articulation.

In some instances, small groups will perform from the secondary area in front of the stage, so the system is designed to have two operating modes – one with the whole system aligned to the stage, and the second to listen to each option. He quickly decided that the Funktion-One system gave the sound he was after – and the purple cabinets matched the venue's new colour scheme.

www.manchesterlane.com.au

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World Bank Conference

UAE: When the annual meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund took place last year, they attracted over 27,500 participants from 184 countries to attend 250 meetings in Dubai. The Rental Division of Copenhagen-based Informations Teknik Skandinavia was called in to provide the entire audio-visual installation. Honouring its relationship with Danish EVI Audio distributor, Ascon Trading, along with its Dubai-based partner, Bond Communications, DIS assigned a 50-strong team of technicians with a mountain of Electro-Voice systems to do the job.

According to Ascon's Helge