



Men's Choir

Performance Hall World

Tour

April 24th, 2020



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Objective/Learning Target: The Student will learn about performance venues around the world and the important features for maximizing the experience for audience and performers.



Warm Up

On a separate piece of paper, list the following in importance to you as a performer and then do it again for their importance of an audience member: Amount of seats, acoustics, stage lighting, proximity to performers, architecture, material of walls, ceiling height.



What's in a Space?

1. The first thing is just like what is important to real estate: **Location!** More often than not, the best performance venues are in a big city that are a destination for tourism!
2. **Acoustics** can make or break a venue when it comes to the experience of the performers and the audience. You want to be able to hear all the voices of the ensemble in every seat. You also want to have good paneling that blocks all outside noise!
3. **Seating** is very important when it comes to a venue. A venue that seats many people must be large, but will allow the biggest possible audience. The amount of seats will mess with the acoustics based on the materials used on the seats.
4. **Versatility** is a big factor. The type of event being held may change, but you still want your venue to be as usable for a soloist as it is to a symphony orchestra. You also may want to think about would other genres of music be able to perform there.

Time to Take A Trip!

Now we are about to embark on a journey of some of the most famous concert halls around! Let's start in our own backyard!





The Kauffman Center

Opening in 2011, the Kauffman Center's two performance venues - Muriel Kauffman Theatre and Helzberg Hall - are distinct structures, each existing in their own acoustical envelope and housed within a dramatic architectural shell. This shell features a glass roof and glass walls, providing sweeping views of Kansas City to the south. The north façade features arched walls sheathed in stainless steel that rise from the ground like a wave. Five acres of green space surround the Kauffman Center; the land is available to be used for outdoor performances and as a public gathering space. The total project cost \$413 million dollars and is home to the Kansas City Ballet and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

Kauffman cont.

https://youtu.be/7unfZcezX_o



To the West Coast!

Next stop is the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, CA!





Lillian Disney (widow of Walt Disney) made an initial gift of \$50 million in 1987 to build a performance venue as a gift to the people of Los Angeles and a tribute to Walt Disney's devotion to the arts and to the city. It was the largest single gift in U.S. history for a cultural building. Upon completion in 2003, the project cost an estimated \$274 million; the parking garage alone cost \$110 million. The remainder of the total cost was paid by private donations, of which the Disney family's contribution was estimated to \$84.5 million with another \$25 million from The Walt Disney Company. The design of the hall included a large concert organ, completed in 2004. The organ's façade was designed by architect Frank Gehry in consultation with organ consultant and tonal designer Manuel Rosales. Gehry wanted a distinctive, unique design for the organ. In all, there are 72 stops, 109 ranks, and 6,125 pipes; pipes range in size from a few centimeters/inches to the longest being 9.75 meters (32 feet)

Aaaaand We're Walking....

<https://youtu.be/ViCYciMxg0s>





Sydney Opera House

Sydney Opera House sits on Bennelong Point. Bennelong Point was named after Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior Eora man at the time of the arrival of British colonisers in Australia in 1788. The original cost estimate to build Sydney Opera House was \$7 million. The final cost was \$102 million and it was largely paid for by a State Lottery. 233 designs were submitted for the Opera House international design competition held in 1956. Jørn Utzon from Denmark was announced the winner, receiving £5000 for his design. Construction was expected to take four years. It took 14 years. Work commenced in 1959 and involved 10,000 construction workers. Paul Robeson was the first person to perform at Sydney Opera House. In 1960, he climbed the scaffolding and sang Ol' Man River to the construction workers as they ate lunch. Sydney Opera House was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2007. There are more than 1 million roof tiles covering approximately 1.62 hectares sitting over the structure. They were made in Sweden. Seven A380s could sit wing-to-wing on the site. Sydney Opera House was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 20th October, 1973. She has since visited four times, most recently in 2006. When the Sydney Symphony Orchestra is on stage in the Concert Hall, the temperature must be 22.5 degrees to ensure the instruments stay in tune. Temperature and humidity are critical to musical instruments. Arnold Schwarzenegger (former actor and Governor of California) won his final Mr Olympia body building title in 1980 in the Concert Hall. A net was installed above the orchestra pit in the Joan Sutherland Theatre during the 1980s following an incident during the opera Boris Godunov. The opera featured live chickens and one bird walked off the stage and landed on top of a cellist. More than 10.9 million people visit the Opera House every year. Sydney Opera House is cooled using seawater taken directly from the harbour. The system circulates cold water from the harbour through 35 kilometres of pipes to power both the heating and air conditioning in the building.

https://youtu.be/35Jom_dGS0I

<https://youtu.be/QA0WMIryzZs>



Royal Albert Hall

Some interesting facts about London's Royal Albert Hall:

1. Its pipe organ is 2nd largest in the UK.
2. It is a commonly known fact that the Hall's namesake is Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. A lesser-known fact is that it was originally going to be called the Hall of Arts and Science.
3. The Royal Albert Hall once outlawed Pop & Rock music.
4. The Hall's oval dome is a big part of why it's so prestigious today
5. When the Hall's 279-tonne roof was installed, it broke the record for the largest unsupported glass dome in the world. During both World Wars, the roof had to be blacked out, but this didn't stop German pilots from using it as a navigation point.

Tour: <https://youtu.be/j7EseGKathc>





Next Stop..... <https://youtu.be/EEjq8ZoyXuQ?t=178>

Located in downtown Manhattan, Carnegie Hall is home to 3 different auditoriums, the Isaac Stern Auditorium (largest hall), Zankel Hall and the Weill Recital Hall. Some of the world's most famous performers have graced the stage at Carnegie including: Tchaikovsky, who was the opening act in 1891, Judy Garland, Carol Burnett and Julie Andrews, Duke Ellington, Bob Dylan, Jon Bon Jovi, Billy Joel, Paul Simon and Elton John. Tours are also given 6 days a week and there are educational outreach opportunities as students from all over the world, Independence included, have performed at Carnegie.

Tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZUxk3LRy9U>

Carnegie





The Metropolitan Opera House

The Metropolitan Opera was founded in 1883, with its first opera house built on Broadway and 39th Street by a group of wealthy businessmen who wanted their own theater. In the company's early years, the management changed course several times, first performing everything in Italian (even Carmen and Lohengrin), then everything in German (even Aida and Faust), before finally settling into a policy of performing most works in their original language, with some notable exceptions.

Tour: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNLAfVDzL9w>

The Met

