
Developments in Variable Acoustics for Rehearsal Rooms

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ABSTRACT

In January 2019 the new home of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam has been opened. It is realized by adapting a monumental school building (architect: Berlage) in the vicinity of the Concertgebouw. Besides offices spaces it houses 10 rehearsal studios for individual musicians and small groups, as well as a small hall for chamber music and group rehearsals. This hall had to have a rich sound for chamber music with strings and woodwinds, by means of enough volume, reverberation and evenness in the sound field. In order to lower the loudness and reverberation for group rehearsals and especially brass instruments variable acoustics have been implemented. This paper focusses on the original search for a suitable home, especially with the acoustic requirement for the right volume for the hall. From there the goals, means, design and results with emphasis on the variability will be described and discussed with retrospect of other musical rehearsal rooms, literature and standards.

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