



threshold

Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts Emory University Atlanta, Georgia

Dawn Schuette as Senior Consultant for Kirkegaard Associates

Built to bring together previously scattered departments of Dance, Theater and Music at Emory University, the new Schwartz Center is a place for interaction between students and faculty in the performing arts while expanding exhibition space for the Carlos Museum.

The Emerson Concert Hall is at the heart of the facility and houses a new Jaekel organ. Symphonic, wind, percussion, brass, and choral ensembles rehearse and perform in this space. Faculty and other professional ensembles also perform in this venue.

A Dance Performance Studio, Theatre Lab, and Instrumental Rehearsal Hall surround the Concert Hall. The arrangement of these four spaces on the same floor level allows shared function when needed, but each is acoustically separated to assure uninterrupted simultaneous use.

Audio system design stresses flexibility in all spaces. Equipment can be shared and combined as needed for events, and dressing areas, including the Instrumental Rehearsal Hall, can be linked to any or all of the three main performance areas.



Nearly all of the teaching and rehearsal areas in the building have access to natural light – a key element in the design concept. The acoustic banners in the concert hall were designed with an innovative rigging system that allows them to be deployed either above or below the clerestory glass. Due to the busy street and nearby Emory hospital facilities, double glazing is used to acoustically isolate the four venues.

Client:

Emory University

Architects:

Michael Dennis Associates

*Howard Montgomery Stager
Performance Architecture*

*Smallwood Reynolds Stewart,
Stewart & Associates*

Theatre Consultant:

Theatre Projects Consultants

Acoustics Consultant:

Kirkegaard Associates

