

AN OVERVIEW OF MUSONICS

MUSONICS WAS FOUNDED IN 1981 IN UPSTATE NEW YORK TO PROVIDE CONSULTING and design services in architectural acoustics, sound, and noise control. In 1990 the firm moved to the Colorado foothills and relocated to the Midwest in 2005. The principal of the firm has 25 years of practical experience serving on design teams for over 300 projects throughout the country including churches, performance facilities, colleges and universities, public and private schools, and commercial, corporate and public facilities. State-of-the-art consulting services are offered to architects, parishes, engineers, interior designers, private and civic organizations, and individuals.

Dr. Dennis Fleisher, the firm principal, has earned advanced degrees in music, acoustics, physics, and education. His practical experience, extensive training, and professional involvement in architecture, education, and performing arts provide a unique ability to interact cooperatively and productively with the diverse perspectives, professions, and priorities encountered in building projects, architecture, engineering and acoustics.

ACOUSTICS FOR WORSHIP SPACES

Because of the unique demands and challenges in providing appropriate acoustics in worship spaces, **MUSONICS** has made a deep commitment to its design effort for churches. Special emphasis is placed on the effective integration of speech clarity, sacred and liturgical music, and congregational singing. Consulting services are provided for the design of new worship spaces, the renovation or restoration of existing spaces, and for modifications to correct unsatisfactory acoustical conditions.

Strong emphasis is placed on the formation and development of design priorities and concepts, particularly in programming and early design phases. This involves face-to-face communication with pastoral staff, building committees, liturgists, musicians, parishioners, architects, and other design team members, particularly in understanding the unique needs of individual parishes. In addition to conventional elements of acoustical consulting, assistance and guidance is offered such as workshops, seminars, and master planning studies embracing all acoustical elements of the worship environment and experience.

ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS

Acoustical design services and architectural detailing are provided for assembly spaces or all types for colleges, universities, private and public schools with special considerations for music education facilities. **MUSONICS** has extensive experience in professional performance facilities including concert and recital halls, drama theaters, multi-purpose performance centers for professional touring groups, community theaters, and school auditoriums.

The firm principal has served on design teams for music conservatories, educational facilities, office buildings, conference and convention centers, open-plan offices, judicial facilities, and high-tech facilities including laboratories and computer centers. Design input and recommendations are responsive to project budgets and deadlines, and conform to relevant building codes and standards such as ADA, IBC, UBC, BOCA, HUD, FHA, and ASTM.

DENNIS FLEISHER
Ph.D., Principal Consultant

EDUCATION

University of Rochester/Eastman School of Music; Rochester, NY
Ph.D. – Physics/Acoustics and Music (interdisciplinary)

Eastman School of Music; Rochester, NY. M.A. – Music Theory.

Nazareth College; Rochester, NY. B.A. – Music Theory and Education.

The Juilliard School; New York, NY. Performance (Trumpet)

HIGHLIGHTS

Acoustics, music, and sound consultant and designer for over 300 projects nationwide including worship spaces (over 250 churches and 25 cathedrals), performing arts centers, multi-use theaters, music schools and conservatories, recording and broadcast studios, etc. Clients and collaborators include architects, engineers, liturgical consultants, organ builders, church building and renovation committees, performing arts organizations, etc.

Over twenty-five years of experience in acoustics, music, performance, education, & church music, and as a professional performing artist and liturgical musician.

Advanced degrees in Physics/Acoustics & Music and a varied background in the arts & sciences applied to professional collaborations with architects & engineers in real-world building projects.

PUBLICATIONS

“Hearing Is Fundamental,” *Pastoral Music*, June – July 2007.

“Liturgical Ensemble Basics,” Chap. 6: Brass, and Chap. 9: Effective and Appropriate Use of Amplification, Gerard Chiusano and M.D. Ridge, eds. Oregon Catholic Press, 2005.

“Do You Hear What I Hear? Music, Speech, and Acoustics in the Worship Environment;” *Worship Arts*, Jan./Feb. 2003. (*This was the first of a series of 6 articles on acoustics & liturgy serialized in Worship Arts in 2003, co-authored with Ellen Shippert, a liturgical design consultant & architect from Michigan*)

“Locating the Music Ministry;” *Environment & Art Letter, A Forum on Architecture and the Arts for the Parish*, Serialized in 2 issues: Vol. 15, Nos. 4 and 5, June and July 2002.

“Concerns for Pastoral Musicians in *Built of Living Stones*;” *Pastoral Music*, June – July 2001.

“New Buildings, Acoustics, and Pastoral Music: First Make Good Music;” *Pastoral Music*, Feb. – Mar. 2000.

“What Should the Organist Hear: Recommendations from an Acoustician;” *Pastoral Music*, April-May 1997.

“Finding the Parish’s Voice: The Acoustics Crawl;” *Environment & Art Letter, A Forum on Architecture and the Arts for the Parish*, Vol. 7, No. 8, October 1994.

“Acoustics for Worship;” **The Complete Library of Christian Worship**. Vol. 4: Music & the Arts in Christian Worship. R. E. Webber, ed. Star Song Publishing Group, Nashville, 1994.

“An Acoustician’s View: Acoustics for Congregational Singing;” *Meeting House Essays, Acoustics for Liturgy*, 1991, a reprint of the above article.

“Acoustics for Congregational Singing;” *The Hymn, A Journal of Congregational Song*, Vol. 41, 1990.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Free-lance Performing Artist on Trumpet, Cornet, Recorder & Cornetto

New York City: Juilliard Orchestra, Riverside Brass Quintet, West End Symphony, Extra Trumpet with NY Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Radio City, NBC, Pit Musician on- and off-Broadway. (past)

Liturgical Musician

St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Bartholomew's, St. Luke's, The Church of the UN, Riverside Church (with Virgil Fox), recording with WRVR Riverside Church Radio. (past)

Music Faculty – Nazareth College of Rochester

Lecturer in Music, Music Theory, History, Applied Music, Music Education, Director of Ensembles. (past)

Music Director – Nazareth College Performing Arts Center

An 1100-seat regional arts center for nationally known performers. (past)

Clinician/Presenter – Form/Reform Conferences

1996 – present

Calvin Symposium on Worship, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

2007

Lecturer/Presenter – Catholic Theological Union

1994 – present. Institute for Liturgical Consultants, Chicago, IL.

2005 Stewardship Award – National Association of Pastoral Musicians**2005 Music Industry Award – National Association of Pastoral Musicians****Special Faculty – Eastman School of Music**

Eastman School Summer Recording Institute. (past)

Instructor – Metropolitan State College of Denver

Department of Physics.

Lecturer – University of Colorado

Departments of Architecture, Engineering, Music & Physics.

Clinician/Presenter – National Association of Pastoral Musicians Conventions

1996 – present. National and Regional Conventions.

Sole Sponsor – MuSonics Scholarship for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

1997- present. Funding of an annual scholarship to support and foster educational formation of pastoral musicians.

Committee Member – National Association of Pastoral Musicians

Standing Committee for Ensemble Musicians.

Advisory Committee – Illinois Arts Council

Building by Design Awards. (past)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

Association of Consultants for Liturgical Space

Acoustical Society of America

The Hymn Society

Audio Engineering Society

Music Educators National Conference

Institute of Noise Control Engineering

Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art & Architecture

American Institute of Architecture – Allied Member