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


“Liturgical Ensemble Basics,” Chap. 6: Brass, and Chap. 9: Effective and Appropriate Use of Amplification,

“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.


“Finding the Parish’s Voice: The Acoustics Crawl;” Environment & Art Letter, A Forum on Architecture and


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

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

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