Business

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Library Storage Helps Create a Wonderful Arrangement

CHALLENGE

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) was founded in 1895. While the orchestra's music library facilities aren't quite that old, the growth of the CSO led to overcrowded shelves, narrow walkways and, in some cases, makeshift storage fixes. Crowded office space only compounded the closed-in feeling experienced not only by librarians and volunteers, but by visiting artists, musicians, and chorus members who would stop in to collect sheet music for practice and performance.

"We were clearly in an untenable situation. We had outgrown our space," said Associate Principal Librarian Christina Eaton. *"We had three or four annexes elsewhere in the building where we had music squirreled away. Something needed to be done."*

SOLUTION

When funding was finally approved to renovate Music Hall, the years of wishing (by the librarians themselves) and privately planning for library storage upgrades finally came to fruition. There were two central parts of the Patterson Pope solution. A large hallway/ walkway just feet from the library's main office area was repurposed to feature more than 35 mechanical assist high-density carriages. Three separate modules were installed –two totaling 27 carriages and a third with eight carriages – allowing the library to conveniently store its more than 11,500 sets of music with additional capacity programmed for future growth of the collection.

In the main office area, a trio of smaller enclosed offices were removed, along with a few walls, enabling the installation of brand new stationary shelving. This library shelving now accommodates music collected for the current seasons – for not only the CSO, but also arts partners Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Ballet, and the May Festival Chorus.

Custom casework added to the front of the office area conveniently holds sheet music that musicians can easily access for both practice and performance

"The Patterson Pope team was instrumental in every step of several collection moves, as well as the installation. I can't imagine having tackled this project without them."

Christina Eaton
Associate Principal Librarian
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

ACHIEVEMENT

The results of the finished installation can be felt not only by the team of nine individuals (librarians and volunteers) who access the system on a regular basis, but the dozens of musicians and chorus members who enjoy the benefits, as well.

Said Eaton, *"It's brought about a new sense of clarity to both our holdings and our archives. It's also dovetailing very nicely with our orchestra's 125th anniversary season, which is coming up next season. It's brought a lot of focus to our work, both to our daily tasks and in terms of access. It's also helped us look back into our history at times. Now we can identify a specific set of music that we know we played in 1897, for example. That's pretty special. It's really given us a whole new perspective, and an appreciation for where we've been, where we are, and where were going. It's been wonderful."*