

A Look at Some Recent House of Worship Projects

By Thomas S. Freeman

No matter what faith or style of service, all churches share a common goal — that of spreading the message. Some have a greater emphasis on spoken word; others rely more on music in any variety of styles, whether it be folk, liturgical, gospel or flat-out rock and roll. But all houses of worship need a sound system that provides clarity, intelligibility and musicality.

With that in mind, we present some recent installation projects, ranging from whole system to incremental upgrades. Each took a different route in their approach, proving there are numerous solutions to any audio problem — large or small — for any sanctuary.



CMI Audio and Forefront designed the new Adamson iS7 system.

Glow Church, Gold Coast, Australia

Now with multiple sites in Australia, the U.K., South Korea and the U.S., Glow Church began its journey with Australian integrator Forefront Productions, employing an Adamson iS7 \bourne campus every Sunday. Over the years, a decision was made to convert existing campuses — including

Glow Church
Key Components: Adamson iS7
Designer: CMI Audio & Forefront Productions
Integrator: Forefront

the main Gold Coast campus — to Adamson, as needs and opportunities arose.

“When we heard the Adamson system side by side with the existing system at our Gold Coast campus it was day and night,” said founding pastor Joel Cave. “The quality difference was extremely noticeable, in the bottom-end and particularly the warmth and vocal quality cutting through with clarity and precision.”

With the iS7 system’s flexibility and scalability, the same audio system can be deployed between campuses, providing absolute consistency to the experience at any location.

Brian Vayler, of Aussie Adamson distributor CMI Audio, partnered with Forefront’s Matt Wever on the final system design. The system consists of main left/right hangs, each with eight iS7s and two outfill arrays, each with six iS7s.

Six Adamson iS119 subs arrayed under the stage add LF punch. According to Wever, “the number of sub elements were deployed to provide controlled coverage and consistency throughout the space more than bone rattling bottom end.”

Driving the systems are Lab Gruppen D:Series installation amplifiers with integrated Lake Processing. “One of the cost-efficient characteristics of the Adamson iS7 series in particular,” Wever says, “is that the number of speaker elements you can power with a single amp is very impressive — up to 12 boxes. So for a growing church, it’s very cost-effective to just add more speaker elements without having to purchase more amps.”



Pink Palace Media added a full Allen & Heath dLive S7000 mix and personal mix system.

Istrouma Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA

Since 1920, Istrouma Baptist Church has grown from a small Sunday school into a congregation with 4,500

Istrouma Baptist Church
Capacity: 1,600
Key Components: Allen & Heath dLive S7000, C3500

members spread across two campuses. The church’s main campus recently now

has an audio upgrade implemented by Baton Rouge-based Pink Palace Media (PPM).

Central to the upgrade is a new digital front-end incorporating an Allen & Heath dLive S7000, which joins a legacy EAW-based L-C-R system serving the main campus’ 1,600-seat sanctuary. To better support the church’s live streaming needs, a dLive C3500 was added to the broadcast control room. Bringing further form and function is the addition of A&H dLive DM64 and S Class DM0 MixRacks, along with 128 x 128 gigaAce and Dante networking cards and two DX168 expanders.

With a Livemix MIX-32 hub from Digital Audio Labs working in conjunction with 16 Livemix CS-DUO personal mixers

(each of which is capable of delivering two separate mixes), performers can now develop their own 24-channel mixes complete with EQ, compression and reverb.

“The DM0 became a super-unique piece in the whole puzzle,” PPM’s Blaine Wilkins explains. “It acts as the central hub for all the networking components, housing Dante, gigaAce, and Waves V3 cards, plus expansion slots, all of which can be utilized across the entire dLive platform. The DM0 resides under the stage, along with the DM64 and Livemix MIX-32 hub, which also speaks Dante. One of the DX168 expanders is at the FOH mix position driving wireless mic operations, the other is at hand as a backup for when the need arises to expand onstage.”

“After we developed a clear picture of where we wanted to go with this upgrade Blaine Wilkins was the one that translated our vision into reality,” says church production associate Parker Wales. “We can run the full gamut of Allen & Heath plug-ins at FOH, plus everything Waves V3 has to offer. We have Virtual SoundCheck functionality, plus the capability to make multi-track recordings. And the fidelity of our processing has hit another level entirely. Combined with the flexibility of our user interface and its ease-of-use, we really couldn’t have asked for anything more.”

Vienna Presbyterian, Vienna, VA

Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC), located in Vienna, VA, partnered with Integrated Production Solutions (IPS; ips.live) to complete an audio and video upgrade to address the

Vienna Presbyterian Church
Capacity: 1,000
Key Components: d&b audiotechnik
Integrator: Integrated Production Solutions

audio challenges of their traditional space. IPS provided a design that both complemented the

traditional church architecture while addressing the need for pristine sound and acoustic quality.

For almost 12 years, Vienna Presbyterian Church experienced significant audio challenges in its uniquely designed house of worship. The space is horseshoe-shaped and outfitted with high ceilings and a second-floor balcony. VPC needed an upgrade to address issues of quality, dated equipment and lack of even sound distribution and intelligibility.

IPS designed and installed the audio and video system starting with extensive testing of all equipment at their facility. To project the sound to all the nooks and crannies of the space, IPS knew they needed a relatively low-profile system with a lot of horsepower and clarity. So they chose equipment from d&b audiotechnik, their top-tiered vendor.

IPS’s Andy Bosquet said, “We knew this high-quality d&b system would solve VPC’s immediate sound needs while giving them an amazing sound system with full coverage of all seats in the sanctuary. d&b has a long lifespan so we’re confident that this new P.A. will outlive any major changes or renovations at the church and allow for more flexibility for larger events the church might want to host.”

IPS designed the main P.A. to utilize white speakers and custom rigging brackets, fabricated by d&b’s custom solution division, to fly the Vi-GSUB above the ALi series speakers in



IPS provided a d&b audiotechnik rig

arrays that almost disappear in the room. IPS also chose the newer 44S as under-balcony fills for their low profile and incredible sound for such a small speaker.

Jeremy Seawell, d&b southeast regional manager said, “Our custom solutions team is uniquely positioned to help with projects having particular requirements. IPS brought us a project requiring custom rigging beyond our standard product offerings, including a special color paint finish to meet the clean aesthetic for Vienna Presbyterian Church.”

Access holes were cut through the ceiling to locate I-beams for IPS to attach the rigging. Once the hardware was fastened, aircraft cable was fed through and the holes were sealed. Dante was rerouted and linked to the new amplifiers for signal distribution. New acoustically transparent 16:9 screens were installed to allow sound from the church organ to pass through.

“There was an overwhelming amount of positive feedback on the sound quality, especially from those that sit underneath the balconies because now really for the first time they can hear everything tuned and timed properly,” said Matt Torres, VPC project manager and consultant. “It’s been a great experience working with IPS.”



DAS Audio AERO-20As proved a good fit with the wide sanctuary's audio needs.

Cornerstone Church, Fresno, CA

Cornerstone Church is a non-denominational congregation. To ensure its message reaches the entire congregation, the church contracted with Jag Sound Productions to handle a new sound system design and installation. Company owner Juan Gonzalez selected DAS Audio AERO-20, UX-218A, and EVENT-26A loudspeakers for the project.

"The church's services are both traditional and contemporary in nature. The sanctuary has an 86 foot wide stage area and from there, the room fans out to a width of 144 feet along the back wall," says Gonzalez. "The room's depth measures 107 feet. The space accommodates approximately 1,400 worshippers and seating is fixed. Further, the space also serves as a performance venue for a variety of touring acts. It was

crucial the new system offered wide dispersion to reach everyone and music reproduction and speech intelligibility were first-rate."

The new system has 20 DAS Audio AERO-20A 2-way, powered line array enclosures — flown 10 per side of the stage. Low frequency support is via four DAS UX-218A powered dual-18" subs, with two on each side of the stage.

For front fill, Gonzalez installed four DAS EVENT-26A 2-way, ultra-compact powered line arrays. "These were the perfect choice to cover the first one or two rows of seats directly in front of the stage area," Gonzalez explained. "Their small footprint doesn't interfere visually with the activity taking place on stage and they do a great job filling the area between the left and right hangs."

In the first months since the new system has been operational, Gonzalez reports his client is pleased. "The new DAS system makes a tremendous improvement to the sound throughout the room and, makes services more engaging. It's been a win-win for everyone."



Solid Sound Solution provided a CODA Audio N-RAY system.

All Nations Church Onnuri, Lake View Terrace, CA

One of the biggest Korean churches in Southern California, All Nations Church Onnuri (ANC) has a membership of around 3,500 and attracts large congregations to its principal services.

The church's campus has 1,200 seats in a fan-shaped, slightly asymmetrical arrangement, including a wide balcony. ANC's old system had begun to show signs of deterioration, and the decision was made to seek a modern, high-quality system.

Troy Choi of Solid Sound Solution considered ANC's requirements for a discreet system

that could offer clarity and power and he demoed a CODA Audio N-RAY system. "Around a year ago I installed an N-RAY system at Grace Ministries International Church in LA," says Choi. "They've since had many big events and the results have been brilliant — to be honest, it's

the best high frequency sound I've ever heard — so I had a lot of confidence that it would be choice for ANC's needs." Choi's Solid Sound Solution was awarded the contract.

The main hangs comprise eight N-RAY and a single SCN sensor-controlled LF extension per side, supplemented by four SCV sensor-controlled subs flown in a cardioid array. A central array of three APS act as a delayed fill for the balcony, while a single HOPS8 per side provides outfill. Four HOPS5s act as frontfills across the stage lip, with three CUE Four and four HOPS8 as stage monitoring.

"Everyone is blown away by N-RAY," says Choi. "Expectations in the Church were definitely high — they had been patient with their process of identifying the right choice of system, so it had to be perfect. We were painstaking in our work to make sure that every aspect was spot on, and while it was a challenging job, we have been rewarded with a universal thumbs-up from everyone involved."

Cornerstone Church
Capacity: 1,400
Key Components: DAS Audio Event Series
Integrator: Jag Sound Productions

All Nations Church Onnuri
Capacity: 1,200
Key Components: Coda N-RAY
Integrator: Solid Sound Solution

THE Outdoor Entertainment Lifting Solution:
Harrington's TNER

HARRINGTON
A KITO GROUP COMPANY

Outdoor Rated - Rugged - Reliable

Toll Free: 800-233-3010 Phone: 717-665-2000 www.harringtonhoists.com