

Church upgrades for clear, dynamic sound.



Faith Bible Church, The Woodlands, TX, USA

"That was one of the first things that stood out to me at the first rehearsal we had with the new rig in the new room. Bringing the vocals front and center was wonderfully easy."

BJ McGeever, House Engineer,
Faith Bible Church

Setting the scene

Located in The Woodlands - a rural idyll just outside the metropolitan area of Houston, Texas - Faith Bible Church was built to suit the needs of a thriving community.

The church is surrounded by homes dotted along tree lined avenues. Extensive sports fields lay immediately to the south, and across

Research Forest Drive is The Woodlands Township Recreation Center.

Establishing objectives

"As a new build, we advised the church to engage the services of acoustical consultants Jaffe Holden," explains Bruce Simmons of Texas based audio contractors Hairel Enterprises. "They were engaged to design a perfect worship environment, allowing for amplified music and occasional choral performances.

"This is a fan shaped auditorium for approximately 1,000 worshippers and has a reverb' of around 1.4 secs, most active in the lower frequencies. It gives the room a beautiful natural warm sound. Of course, when Hairel was contracted to design the sound reinforcement system it had to suit the room and not detract from the fantastic acoustic character."

House Engineer, BJ McGeever: "We have, what I consider, quite a modern band that usually includes keys, violin, one or two electric

guitars, bass, drums, acoustic guitar, and one each male and female vocalists. They perform a lot of pieces from Hillsong, Bethel Music, and the Passion artists: Matt Redman, Chris Tomlin, Kristian Stanfill, etc.

"I don't place a big emphasis on being extremely loud, but rather being extremely clear. One of my highest priorities throughout the process was to make sure that, within reason, every seat in the room received a clear and dynamic sound."

The solution

Hairel elected an entirely new product line for them. "We had recently seen and heard a d&b J-Series system in a large Texas theater with two balconies," says Simmons. "A touring musical production, we had doubts at first that what they hung would be sufficient to cover the room correctly. But when they turned it on we were immediately impressed, not just by the coverage, but also the wonderful tonal balance across the full frequency range. So much so we contacted d&b's US office that day."

"Faith Bible is the first project we have done with d&b and has been a great experience. Support has been 100%"

Bruce Simmons, System Integration Coordination, Hairel Enterprises

The Hairel design comprises left/center/right deployment; three identical hangs of Ti10L line array cabinets, with a pair of J-SUBs flown immediately behind the center line array.

"Imaging was the big challenge," explains Simmons, "but true to d&b's credo of 'democracy for listeners' we found when we modelled in ArrayCalc, that feeding the system in mono produces a focus on center. The little E6 loudspeakers we arrayed across the stage lip for frontfill helped pull the image down for those first rows."

Although the Ti10L is the smallest d&b line array, McGeever was not concerned by the choice of loudspeaker. "I trusted Bruce's expertise, he understood our needs and I was excited by the upgrade from the dying system.

"Even now, months later, I'm often struck by how well covered the room is, especially in the low end. Furthermore, I naturally emphasize vocal clarity in my mixes. That was one of the first things that stood out to me at the first



rehearsal we had with the new rig in the new room. Bringing the vocals front and center was wonderfully easy.

"Our T-Series rig has completely delivered in that regard, and the cardioid subs have been particularly impressive."

"BJ is a skilled enthusiast and knows what he's doing," concludes Simmons. "He sat in on the commissioning of the system with us and Joe DiFalco from d&b. BJ's familiarity with the music program proved invaluable, and we were able to set the system entirely to his liking.

"Faith Bible is the first project we have done with d&b and has been a great experience. Support has been 100%. We did a full technology installation at Faith Bible and have a Crestron system to supervise it. We wanted a single button 'standby' mode which we knew was possible over the Ethernet network via Open Control Architecture but weren't quite sure how. We called the US office and they contacted Germany. It must have been the middle of the night out there, but they responded within an hour; now that's service."

➤ System: Ti10L, E6, J-SUB and D80