

Historic church gets technicians talking with column loudspeaker installation.



Maria Magdalena, Stockholm, Sweden

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Setting the scene

With its unique layout and particularly long nave, Stockholm’s Maria Magdalena church is one of the oldest and largest in the city.

In 2013, a complete renovation project was started, with refurbishments made both inside and outside the building. As part of the undertaking, the church also decided to upgrade its sound system, which would need to deliver from an acoustic perspective, as well as sit comfortably with the church’s historic architecture.

Establishing objectives

Consultation and installation went to SoundCop Consulting. At the time the project specifications were being finalized the company was not

yet aware of the d&b 2-way passive xC-Series column loudspeakers and had chosen another option. Then, in 2014 they happened to attend a demo by local d&b partner Arva Trading at another of Stockholm’s churches. They were so impressed with the results they decided to redo the whole specification for Maria Magdalena.

“We were totally blown away by how good it sounded,” confirms SoundCop Co-owner, Jacob Julin. “So, we went back and changed the whole specification. This is the first 2-way passive column speaker that we have seen that actually sounds like a proper PA system. The sound stays coherent and warm, rather than like it’s coming from a flimsy speaker, which is so often the case with the sound setup in a church.”



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Natanael Lyckelind, Sales and Support AV/Pro Audio, at Arva Trading explains: “The passive cardioid function of the columns results in excellent dispersion control, which makes them particularly good for an environment like Maria Magdalena. In a church this size, reverberation can be a significant barrier to speech intelligibility, but the cardioid dispersion pattern of the xC-Series significantly reduces the level of the reverberant field, maximizing speech intelligibility.”

The solution

In all, the installation comprises six 24C and eighteen 16C column loudspeakers, eight 4S loudspeakers, two B4-SUBs and six 10D

amplifiers. The entire system is controlled by a QSC Q-SYS audio control platform, utilizing the d&b plug-in for the integration of the 10D amplifiers. The plug-in allows access to d&b amplifier parameters (Gain and Mute status, AmpPresets, Power On/Off status, etc.) directly from the Q-SYS interface.

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“There have been some smaller churches but nothing on this scale, so now we have a lot of technicians talking about this project. The results have been really good. A lot of choirs come to perform at Maria Magdalena and they like to bring their own sound systems, but when they

see how well the inhouse setup works, they prefer to use that instead.”

“The system has actually ended up being used for a bit more than originally expected,” concludes Julin. “What they wanted for the church was really a sound reinforcement system for speech, but it actually works really well for choir concerts and smaller concerts, so long as they aren’t too loud of course.”

➤ System: 4S, 16C, 24C, B4-SUB, and 10D