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Pappert Center Dedication

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The Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation

A Cutting-Edge Performance, Recording and Rehearsal Space

The Pappert Center opened formally with a ribbon cutting on October 2, 2010. The ceremony included a world-premiere performance by the Voices of Spirit of Still Point, by Lynn Emberg Purse, associate professor of music technology.
Below: Evening festivities included a reception and jazz concert, One More Time for Nick, featuring performances by faculty members (from left) Joe Negri, Maureen Budway, Mike Tomaro and Sean Jones. Proceeds from the event benefited the Nicholas Jordanoff Jazz Trumpet Scholarship.

In October 2010, after years of planning and months of construction, the Music School unveiled the new Dr. Thomas D. Pappert Center for Performance and Innovation, a cutting-edge, acoustically ideal space for performance, recording and rehearsal.

The Pappert Center incorporates visionary thinking in sonic engineering and is equipped with the latest audiovisual and recording technology. The project started with the demolition of Room 322, a large, acoustically problematic area just off the Music School lobby, which had previously served for 50 years as a classroom, rehearsal hall and makeshift performance venue.

In its place arose a large (5,000 square feet) elegant space with a variety of unique architectural features that enhance acoustics, such as custom made panels suspended from the ceiling and sound diffusers lining the walls. Curved storage-closet doors serve to further improve sound clarity, and carefully chosen construction materials block outside noise.

Instead of a raised stage, which would limit open space, roughly one-third of the Pappert Center's floor is finished in hardwood, a “stage” that can expand or recede as needed and which can complement a wide variety of flexible seating arrangements. Theatrical lighting and a high-tech audiovisual system, including a 16-foot video projection screen and surround-sound audio, complete the transformation from a rehearsal space to a performance venue that can seat over 150 people. The Pappert Center also has a greenroom for waiting performers.
Before the construction of the Pappert Center, creating professional-quality recordings had to be completed at off-campus facilities. Now, in the adjacent Schrecengost Multimedia Studio, presentations and performances can be captured digitally in high definition video and audio. The captures can be used for creating a DVD or CD, or for streaming broadcasts for television, radio or the Internet. “The engineers and other professionals who have seen it, their jaws drop...”

“The engineers and other professionals who have seen it, their jaws drop...” said Dean Edward Kocher about the

Multimedia Presentation

The centerpiece of the Pappert Center’s performance capabilities is a system that enables seamless streaming of digital media from a variety of sources, while permitting the complete experience to be controlled from the podium or remotely with a touch-screen panel.

Sound Reinforcement

The front-of-house sound reinforcement is focused around speakers formatted with digital theatre surround-sound capabilities. This system gives listeners an authentic movie theatre experience.

Features for the Hearing Impaired

The Pappert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system that provides outstanding audio quality for the hearing impaired, or language interpretation for multilingual presentations.

Live Digital Capture

The Pappert Center has digital video capabilities consistent with a world-class soundstage. Up to seven high-definition, remote-controlled digital camera locations are capable of capturing every aspect of a performance on the soundstage. In addition, sound from up to 64 microphones can be captured and distributed in both digital and analog formats.
The Pappert Center is the most advanced and fully equipped large space of its kind in the city. Creating it has been a lifelong dream for our performance and music technology folks.

“I have been teaching music full-time since 1972,” said Kocher, now in his 11th year at Duquesne. “In terms of any sort of facilities or physical space, the Pappert Center is really the highlight of my musical life. It’s wonderful.”

**TECHNICAL FEATURES**

**Mastering Suite**

The mastering suite provides a critical-listening environment with the latest recording technology. Here, audio engineers and students in the music technology program blend and perfect the sound of CD, DVD or streaming audio and video presentations.

The heart of the mastering suite is a console for digital mixing. Each of the console’s 48 channels has its own four-band digital equalization as well as dynamic signal processing for high levels of sonic control. High-tech workstations, equipped with the latest hardware and software, provide space in the mastering suite for storage and manipulation of sound and video files.

**Schrecengost Multimedia Studio**

The William M. Schrecengost Multimedia Studio is capable of receiving digital media streams from both the performance stage and remote locations. These can then be captured for subsequent post-production, or streamed for television, radio or the Internet.

The studio has two state-of-the-art digital consoles capable of producing professional quality audio and video recordings as well as equipment that provides dynamic control over cameras in the performance area, a feature that makes it possible to capture or stream multi-camera video presentations.

The William M. Schrecengost Multimedia Studio was created with a generous equipment donation from the Schrecengost family.