

Guide to Strong Auditorium

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Notable Locations and How to Navigate Them

Strong Auditorium is an event and classroom space that contains two auditoriums, a main lobby, two dressing rooms, and multiple rehearsal spaces. Lower Strong is primarily used for classes, but also holds rehearsals and some performances, while Upper Strong is used for Music Department rehearsals and performances, presentation style events, and student group performances. Exterior doors of the building may have key or card swipe access, and all interior areas are key access only.

a. Lobby

This space is accessed from the main exterior doors of the building or from the doors facing Lattimore (card swipe) and the doors facing the Interfaith Chapel (key only, ADA access). From the lobby you can access the Upper Auditorium, the Balcony, the Box Office, stairs to Lower Strong, and restrooms. The main exterior doors can be keyed open, and the ADA door must have both crash bars keyed open for the ADA button to work.

Room: 115

b. Upper Auditorium

The main performance venue of the building. Contains a permanent stage and audience seating as well as storage and tech spaces. The stage has a fly system that allows the space to convert from an Orchestra Shell for Music rehearsals and performances to a theatrical setup with soft goods and stage lighting.

Room: 116 (house) / 103 (stage)

c. Upper Auditorium: Balcony

Accessible from the Lobby and contains additional seating for the Upper Auditorium. Note: this is not an ADA accessible seating location.

Room: 201

d. Upper Auditorium: Cove

The attic of Strong Auditorium, which is accessible by ladder via a door in the Balcony. Some lighting and audio equipment is housed in this space.

Room: N/A

e. Lower Auditorium

The main classroom of the building. This space also holds rehearsals and some performances. It may occasionally be used as a Green Room for performance events.

Room: 011

f. Dressing Room A/B

Accessible via the back hallway in the lower level of Strong or from stairwells in Upper Strong Aud, these dressing rooms are mirrors of each other. They contain seating, mirrors, a sink, and a restroom for performers or presenters to use while preparing for an event.

Room(s): 014, 010

g. Music Rehearsal Rooms A-C

These small rehearsal rooms are located in the back hallway of Strong's lower level. They are occasionally used as additional dressing rooms, if the event requires it.

Room(s): 05, 06, 07

h. Loading Dock

Located in the back of Strong's Lower Level (close to Todd Union), this space is used for storage and the loading and unloading of equipment through the garage door. It can be accessed from the Lower Aud exterior doors, the Upper Aud back stairwells, the lower level back hallway, or the garage door.

Room: 012

i. Elevator

This elevator is used for ADA access or moving rolling equipment to the Upper Auditorium and Strong's lower level. It does not reach the Balcony. The elevator has 3 stops: LL (Lower Level), 1 (exterior access on the IFC side), and 2 (main level of Upper Aud)

Room: N/A

Storage Spaces within Strong Auditorium

Event Support keeps equipment stored in multiple locations within the building

a. **Box Office**

Accessible via the lobby, located next to the men's restroom. Easily accessible to the public in the lobby and should not be left unlocked or open when unattended. Contains wireless mic batteries & chargers, wireless com sets & chargers, laptops, and a printer. Power for the Mobile Box Office is pulled from this location.

Room: 101

b. **Q Club**

Located off the Upper Auditorium stage left vestibule, this storage space is accessible from backstage left or the stage left stairwell. Contains gaff & spike tape, spare lamps, wired microphones, lighting gels, tools, and office supplies.

Room: 102

c. **The (Orchestra) Pit**

Located under the apron of the stage and is accessible from the front of the stage or the back stairwells of the Upper Aud. Contains extra amplifiers and speakers, Cyc lights & Ground Row, backstage carpeting, and spare soft goods. Also houses the main PA's Subwoofers, and Music's risers.

Room: 117

d. **Loading Dock Cage**

Located within the loading dock. This cage is separated into 4 different sections for ECM, Music, Facilities, and WCSA.

Room: 012C

Technology in Upper Strong Auditorium

a. Sound

Installed PA & Monitors:

The **main sound system** in Upper Strong consists of a full sized Behringer X32, which is connected to an S32 stagebox backstage left. The main PA is a L/R pair of speakers on stage and has a compliment of 4 subwoofers located in the Pit. 4 Small monitors are permanently run along the edge of the stage, and the monitors and main PA are powered by amplifiers backstage left.

To turn **ON** the sound system, you must turn on the X32 (power switch on the back) and then turn on the PLD amplifiers backstage (quick pressing the power button on the front of the amp – button color will turn from RED to BLUE when amp is on). Follow those steps in the opposite order to turn **OFF** the system

Wireless Mic & Mac Mini Rack:

The **Wireless Mic/Mac Mini rack** is located under the Sound Tech table. It has 6 QLX mic receivers built in with antenna distribution and a network switch connected to the Sound Network. (Wireless mics are kept in the small rack next to the Wireless Rack, and batteries are located in the Box Office) The Mac Mini is housed in this rack, and its power button is located on the FRONT of the rack.

Com System:

The **Com system** consists of both Wired and Wireless systems that have been integrated together. Both systems can be turned ON by switching on the power for the Stage Management rack located at the CENTER tech table.

The **WIRED system** can be set up for 3 channel output, and the central control box can link or separate each channel. Some wired Com is permanently run at the tech tables as well as to the spotlight positions in the balcony.

The **WIRELESS system** uses 2 channels, and is integrated into the wired 3 channel system. We have (5) wireless beltpack & headset combos, which are kept in the Box Office. The charging station and batteries for the packs is also contained in the Box Office.

b. Lighting

Unison System – Architectural Lighting Control

The Unison system has single button stations at the entry doors to the Upper Auditorium, which say 'PANIC' – these buttons turn ON & OFF the houselight and work lights when the IonXE is not in control. There are also multi button & fader stations at the back of the house and backstage left on the dimmer rack, which allow for additional control of pre-recorded looks. These additional stage light settings are often used for Music Department rehearsals and Performances

ETC IonXe and Installed Theatrical Lighting

The main system for theatrical lighting during performance events is controlled by an IonXe20 lightboard, much like the other large event venues on campus. The Ion is connected to ETCNet and controls the dimmer racks, installed LED lighting, and moving lights when powered on. If the IonXe has control of the lighting rig, the Unison System loses its control. There are lights installed on 'Electrics' on the Fly System, on the Box Booms in the House, in the Cove, and in the Orchestra Shell. House Lights, Work Lights, and Run Lights can also be directly controlled from the Ion (there are also fluorescent lights backstage that must be switched off manually for performances – these are our 'ghost light' in the space)

Spotlights

The Upper Auditorium has two spotlights in the Balcony, which are manually controlled by technicians. These lights can pan & tilt, change intensity, color, and the size of the beam on stage. LED sights have been added to the spotlights for more accurate pickups and control.

Ground Package

The Upper Strong Ground Package consists of LED moving lights and 'LED Cans'. These are placed on stage at the lighting designer/programmer's discretion. They are often chained together for data and power connections and are connected to the lightboard's data via wireless DMX SHoWBaby devices.

CYC Lights

These lights are used to illuminate the Cyc – an off white soft good that spans the full stage – in different colors. A set of these lights are installed on the 4th Electric, and an additional set can be placed on the ground. If the Cyc is located downstage of the 4th Electric for a performance, only the ground-cycs would be used.

c. Video

The video system in Upper Strong Auditorium consists of a 9'x16' fast fold screen, which is traditionally hung from lineset 02 or lineset 17 for performances, as well as a Roland V8-HD video switcher, a projector located upstage on a rolling cart, and a Crestron HDMI extender transmitter & receiver.

The Screen can be placed on multiple linesets. It has a skirt, which is held to the screen by its own frame bar and hooks. The hooks should be removed from the screen when not in use. The Screen is framed by additional softgoods from the top and sides – a Border (top), and Legs (sides) OR by the Gold Main Drape (sides)

The Projector (Panasonic PT-DZ10KU) sits on the top shelf of the rolling cart upstage. It has two lenses, though only the SHORT THROW lens is used for the traditional projection locations. A step ladder should be used to insert or remove a lens. The projector can be powered ON and can be focused with a remote control. If the projector is against the US brick wall, the lens MUST BE REMOVED before the Motorized Wall is lowered to prevent damage.

The Roland video switcher can take HDMI input from up to 8 devices and can store still images to be used in place of some of those HDMI inputs. Laptops and the Mac Mini are frequently used input devices.

Theatrical Systems and Components in Upper Strong Auditorium

a. Fly Rail/Fly System

The Fly System in Strong is a Single Purchase Counterweight system. It allows for the raising and lowering of linesets or battens (long metal pipes) over the stage. Objects such as lights or softgoods can be attached to these linesets, and their weight can be balanced by adding stage weights or 'bricks' to the arbor of the fly rail. The Upper Strong Fly System does not allow for changes of more than 50lbs at a time.

The Fly Rail has an arbor, where the counter weight is placed, control lines, and a handle which locks the position of the batten & arbor for each of the 28 linesets.

When a **Lineset** is being moved, no one should stand underneath it. The crew member controlling the lineset will communicate to the crew and theater that the pipe will be moving, and everyone in the space should respond that they are aware with a "thank you". The same will happen when the pipe is secured in place or "locked".

Each **lineset** is labelled with the items or equipment that are hung from the battens. Standard labels would be for Borders, Legs, Screen, Cyc, Electric (special batten that has dimmers used to power stage lights) and Shell (a "cloud" section of the orchestra shell)

b. Orchestra Shell and Motorized Wall

The Orchestra Shell consists of 6 rolling wall sections, a motorized upstage wall, and 4 'clouds' on linesets which contain lights for rehearsals and performances.

The rolling **wall sections** can be moved around the stage using a dolly when the bottom panel of the wall has been removed and stored. Each wall has a center section connected to two folding 'wings'. The downstage sections of wings are split so that the bottom sections can be opened as doorways. Each rolling wall section has a specific spike mark on stage where the wall's feet must be positioned. When the walls are not in use, they are stored, nested into each other, backstage left.

The Motorized Wall can move up and down to allow access to equipment that is stored behind it. When lowered, it completes the ring of the shell walls around the stage. The control for the motorized wall is located upstage left, and the key is stored in Q Club. The area under the motorized wall **MUST BE CLEAR** before it is lowered into position. When lowered, it will hover 1/2" over the deck, and a pin on either side of the wall will be dropped into holes in the deck to hold the wall in place.

The Shell Clouds are controlled by the Fly System. They can be flipped Horizontally for use with the walls or vertically to be stored. On each cloud, two straps must be pulled to release the cloud from its vertical position. Each shell cloud has between four and six lights in it, that will only turn on when in the horizontal position. Lights should be checked and changed when the cloud is lowered in to a working height.

c. Soft Goods

Soft Goods are large pieces of fabric or curtains that are often hung from linesets. They can be used to hide or “mask” the backstage area from the audience, frame the stage space in a chosen way, or receive stage lighting for colorful looks on stage. Notable softgoods for this space are the Main Drape, Borders, Legs, the Cyc, and Skirts.

The Main Drape is a gold traveler curtain, which opens and closes with the control of a running rope downstage left. It can be used to separate the apron area of the stage from the main or upstage area during a performance. It is the furthest downstage softgood, located just behind the proscenium arch. The Main Drape is occasionally used to frame the projection screen, when it is hung from lineset 02

A Border is a black softgood that spans the length of the stage and is normally 5’ or 7’ in length in our space. They are used to mask the top of the stage and fly system from the audience.

Legs are tall black softgoods used to mask the backstage area from the audience by framing in the outer edges of the performance space. Four legs hung together are often used to frame the projection screen or to create a ‘Full Stage Black’ and separate the entire upstage area from view of the audience.

The Cyc is a off white or beige full-stage drape that is used as a surface for light to create varied colored light backdrops. This drape is often used for dance or musical theatre performances.

Skirts are used to mask the lower section of an object from the audience. We use a skirt to frame the space below our projector screen, and there is a skirt that runs along the edge of the stage to mask the Pit from the audience.

d. Fire Curtain

A fireproof curtain that will drop manually or automatically in the event of a fire in the auditorium. The fire curtain is located between the proscenium and the Main Drape and should not have anything placed in its path that could prevent it from lowering to the stage (speakers, chairs, stands, a piano, etc). The curtain is manually

dropped several times a year for testing and is then raised back into its stored position manually by ECM crew.