

# University of Cincinnati CCM transitions to LED with ETC

The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) has a twofold mission to educate the next generation of professionals in the arts as well as produce stunning performances. When CCM recently upgraded its performance spaces, the college turned to ETC for lighting solutions. Adam Zeek, Resident Master Electrician of CCM, says, "Because we are an educational institution, any major update requires a wider range of flexibility and options. We need the right tools for events ranging from operas to dance performances, while also prioritizing educational value for students."

The project, in part, was driven by a desire to replace all the house lighting with new LED fixtures. "This was a very thorough renovation," says Micah Rahn of Stages Consultants, who oversaw the project. "In total, we worked in four venues. Updates included new house lighting, seating, a fully motorized rigging system and an entirely new performance lighting system in Corbett Auditorium." In addition to updating the house lights, CCM replaced the orchestral shell lighting in its largest concert hall (Corbett Auditorium) with ETC's GDS ArcSystem Pro Four-Cell Linear fixtures. Using the same lighting across the house and the stage created a consistent transition between the two spaces.

When selecting the new LED fixtures, the team brought in multiple fixture types to test out. The entire light faculty came in to evaluate the lighting. To achieve the warm tone CCM was hoping to maintain in its house lights, GDS by ETC quickly outshined the other fixtures. Zeek says, "The ArcSystem fixtures by far had the best quality of light and dimming curve of the fixtures we tested. It was an easy decision."

The team selected the 3000 K option of fixtures for a crisp, white light across the house and stage. Now, every house fixture is a GDS by ETC solution. Pro Four-Cell Pendants provide the house lighting and Pro One-Cell fixtures are used under the balcony. To modernize venue infrastructure along with the lighting fixtures, CCM completely reconfigured all of the electrical dimming, control, and output. Rahn says, "We upgraded all of CCM's existing CEM 96 Sensor racks to CEM3, and updated their legacy Unison process to Paradigm with new touch screens and button stations."

Along with the ArcSystem fixtures and Paradigm control, CCM also installed Irideon FPZ architectural framing projectors for overhead aisle lighting in Patricia Corbett Theatre. Additionally, Corbett Auditorium's backstage is now lit by GDS BluesSystem from ETC. The running lights illuminate backstage areas with a discrete blue light.

Now that the renovation is complete, Zeek says that CCM's staff has taken notice to the improvements in lighting. He says, "With the new LEDs, one of the major benefits is that we no longer need to have a weekly maintenance call to change the lamps. This saves us time and money."

"The brightness is great for cleaning, and we can always dim them down when we don't need that level of light. Even those who work in production, such as the painters, are happy with how the lights look," adds Zeek. "The support from ETC and Stages Consultants brought together a system that is highly functional in our venues, and will last for years to come."

*GDS by ETC products are only available in North American and Latin American markets. For information about GDS products in other regions, please visit [www.gds.uk.com](http://www.gds.uk.com).*

