



THE KIMMEL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Home of The Philadelphia Orchestra

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (KCPA) opened December 14 -16, 2001, as the new home of The Philadelphia Orchestra. The block-long performing arts complex in the heart of Philadelphia includes state-of-the-art performance spaces, backstage facilities, and audience amenities enclosed under a soaring glass-arched roof. Designed by architect Rafael Viñoly and acoustician Russell Johnson, the KCPA includes the 2500-seat Verizon Hall for orchestral concerts and the more intimate 650-seat Perelman Theater for chamber music presentations.

This cultural landmark is named in honor of Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist Sidney Kimmel, who gave the largest individual gift toward its construction.

With the opening in December 2001 of the Orchestra's new home, the KCPA and the historic Academy of Music (where the Orchestra performed for 101 seasons) are now operated together as a single cultural facility by Kimmel Center, Inc. (KCI). KCI owns, manages, supports, and maintains the KCPA, which includes Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center. KCI also manages the Academy of Music, owned by The Philadelphia Orchestra Association since 1957. The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and the Academy of Music serve as home to eight Resident Company performing arts organizations, including The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Ballet, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, American Theater Arts for Youth, PHILADANCO, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Peter Nero and the Philly Pops®. KCI's mission also includes arts in education, community outreach, and a rich diversity of programming through its Kimmel Center Presents and Broadway at the Academy series of performances.

OPENED: December 14-16, 2001

LOCATION: Broad and Spruce Streets (southwest corner) in Center City, Philadelphia

SIZE: 2.3 acres; 435,000 square feet; vaulted glass roof reaches 150 feet above ground

COST: \$265 million representing \$175 million in construction costs, plus design/architectural fees and start-up operations; \$85 million of the total was raised by The Philadelphia Orchestra Association; the remaining monies were raised by Kimmel Center, Inc.

VERIZON HALL: The concert hall designed specifically for the requirements of The Philadelphia Orchestra. The cello-shaped hall seats 2,500; the ceiling includes sophisticated machinery for refining the acoustic environment; the walls include acoustic doors that can be adjusted to extend the volume of the hall into the surrounding reverberation chambers; the audience enjoys close intimacy with the orchestra platform, within a main seating area and on multiple encircling balconies.

PERELMAN THEATER: A simple rectangular theater for chamber music, dance, and dramatics. This intimate hall seats 650. The stage is a large turntable with an acoustic shell on one side and a 40-foot deep stage with wingspace and flytower on the other side. An orchestra seating elevator allows the room to be reconfigured for arena staging, thrust stage, or flat floor cabaret-style layout.

ARCHITECT: Rafael Viñoly, Rafael Viñoly Architects (www.vinoly.com)

ACOUSTICIAN: Russell Johnson, Artec Consultants Inc. (www.artecconsultants.com)

THEATER DESIGN: Richard Pilbrow, Theatre Projects Consultants (www.tpcworld.com)

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