

BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Cafe 939, Percussion Studios, and Genko Uchida Building
Boston, MA



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Cafe at 939 Boylston Street is a state-of-the-art, all-ages, student-run music venue and coffee house that occupies a store-front space that was formerly an architectural firm's offices. Acentech consulted on architectural acoustics and designed the sound and video systems for the Cafe. The full-featured audiovisual system provides the flexibility to support a variety of performances - large and small groups, acoustic and electric - and presentations. A local musician, after her performance at the Cafe, was quoted in the *Boston Globe*, saying “. . .the sound was better here than at any of the venues we've played.”

In 2005, rainstorms flooded Berklee's building at 1140 Boylston Street, effecting the Percussion Department's 15 year old classrooms, practice rooms and offices. Working with the architects, we took the opportunity to renovate and make these spaces into what would become the most popular state-of-the-art classrooms and private lesson studios on campus. The facilities now have balanced acoustical response throughout the entire frequency spectrum and extremely high sound isolation.

The College expanded its facilities with the addition of renovated buildings at 921-925 Boylston Street in Boston's Back Bay. The 58,000 square foot complex includes a 175-seat performance hall in the Genko Uchida building, ensemble and individual music teaching and rehearsal facilities, classrooms, Berklee's Admissions Center, and offices for all student affairs departments. The design involved complete renovation of two existing buildings and construction of a new top floor and 7-story addition at the rear of the site. The project entailed extensive sound isolation constructions, noise control, acoustics and sound system for the multi-purpose performance center.

Acentech

CONSULTING SERVICES

- Architectural acoustics
- Sound isolation
- Audiovisual system design
- Mechanical system noise and vibration control

REFERENCE

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