

Millfield School, Somerset

Specialist in Flame Retardant Fabrics. Manufacturer and Installer of all types of Theatrical Drapes and Stage Equipment

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Drapes specialist J&C Joel has completed the installation of a set of motorised acoustic drapes for the new Music School and Concert Hall at Millfield School in Street, Somerset.



Millfield is one of the UK's most famous independent schools. Set in the fabulous undulating Somerset countryside overlooking Glastonbury Tor, it's renowned for the sporting achievements of many of its pupils.

The opening of the new Music School and Concert Hall demonstrates Millfield's ongoing commitment to the Arts, and incorporates a 350-seat concert venue, rehearsal areas for all their ensembles, six classrooms, twenty five teaching/practice rooms, recording studios and specialist percussion rooms.

J&C Joel was consulted by main contractors Cowlin, who were working directly for DK Architects. The new main performance space has been designed to offer both acoustically correct music or drama performances, and needed a solution that quickly transformed the acoustics to suit the specific type of performance taking place.

J&C Joel's contract manager Tony Griffiths initially assessed the situation, and proposed a twin Triple E motorised Unirail system for the two side walls, along with a motorised Chain Track for the rear wall.

portfolio

Another huge advantage was having a totally invisible power tail behind, the motor requires no steel cables for operation, and has locating rings sewn onto the reverse side of the curtains. All that can be seen view is the motor and the curtain behind it leaving everything in front totally clean and clear.

To store and conceal the curtains when not in use, a 'front' façade is built onto the back wall of the concert hall. This also has acoustic properties and so needed draping, giving Griffiths and Turner the further challenge of masking it with a motorized system that could also be stored on the reverse side of a wall – which is a mere 300 mm thick!



Triple E Chain Track provided the answer here. Designed to provide a diameter as low as 100 mm this was the perfect product. A continuous motorised Chain Track was installed on both front and rear faces of the wall - this piece of ingenuity allows a 12 metre wide by 7 metre drop curtain to either be in full view when needed, or alternatively hidden/stored on the reverse side.

J&C Joels also specified a simple remote controller that allows the Millfield staff to operate the system – similar to a TV remote.

Tony Griffiths sums up, “The great thing about our industry is the challenge of every contract being bespoke, and confirming to a client that we can do that they need. In essence the greater the challenge, the more satisfaction the completed project brings”.

Earlier in 2006, J&C Joels supplied the acclaimed Yehudi Menuhin School for gifted young string and piano players, with 14 special acoustic drapes for two levels of their brand new 315 seat Menuhin Concert Hall.

Content

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