

# News Release

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## MIDAS HERITAGE 3000 AND VENICE CONSOLES GIVE VIRTUOSO PERFORMANCES AT ORDWAY CENTER

**ST. PAUL, MN (October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002):** The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul, Minnesota presents hundreds of music, opera, dance, and musical theater productions a year, but no rock concerts. Yet at the heart of the Ordway Center's sound system is a mix console more typically found in front of the Rolling Stones than *South Pacific*: a 48-channel Midas Heritage 3000.

Paul Tillman, who heads the Ordway Center's sound department, says that the Heritage 3000 fills their need for a versatile console primarily used for musical theater productions. "I looked into one console that seemed to be the choice of touring productions that came through here," Tillman says. "But the Midas gave us more features for its cost, and the ability to also use it as a monitor console outweighed the other console."



**Telex Communications, Inc.**

12000 Portland Avenue, Burnsville, MN 55337 • Phone: 952.884.4051 • Fax: 952.346.4985

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Tillman says that the Heritage 3000's automation features work well for the needs of musical theater. He says that the ability to re-route a production's 24 to 30 wireless microphones to specific VCAs for each scene makes learning the show a lot easier. Sound designers make extensive use of the console's virtual faders feature, and its ability to mute inputs and outputs by scene. A specific reverb send or sound effects speaker can be left muted until the one time it's used. All the operator has to do is cue the next scene.

Some of the musicals presented by the Ordway Center were previously sound-designed elsewhere on Heritage consoles, which saves rehearsal time and console rental costs. "The Prince and the Pauper was originally mounted at the Fifth Avenue Theater in Seattle, and was designed on their Heritage 3000," Tillman explains. "So when they came here, the show was already programmed and we had virtually no rehearsal time."

In addition to the Heritage 3000, the Ordway Center uses another Midas console, a 24-channel Venice 240. Tillman says that the Venice has been used as an orchestra sidecar, with its four sub-group sends feeding the Heritage console. The Venice also pulls duty for St. Paul Chamber Orchestra concerts, reinforcement for acoustic instrument recitals, dance performances, and even as an occasional sidecar for Minnesota Public Radio's broadcast console in the Ordway's main hall.

While Tillman says that he'd buy another Heritage 3000 "in a heartbeat" for use as a monitor console, his next Midas purchase is likely to be a 16-channel Venice 160 for use in a new sound system installed in the Ordway Center's spacious two-story lobby.

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**James Edlund**  
**Public Relations Manager**  
**Telex Communications, Inc.**  
**12000 Portland Ave. South**  
**Burnsville, MN 55337**  
**Phone: 952-736-3901**  
**Fax: 952-736-4582**  
**E-mail: [James.Edlund@telex.com](mailto:James.Edlund@telex.com)**

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