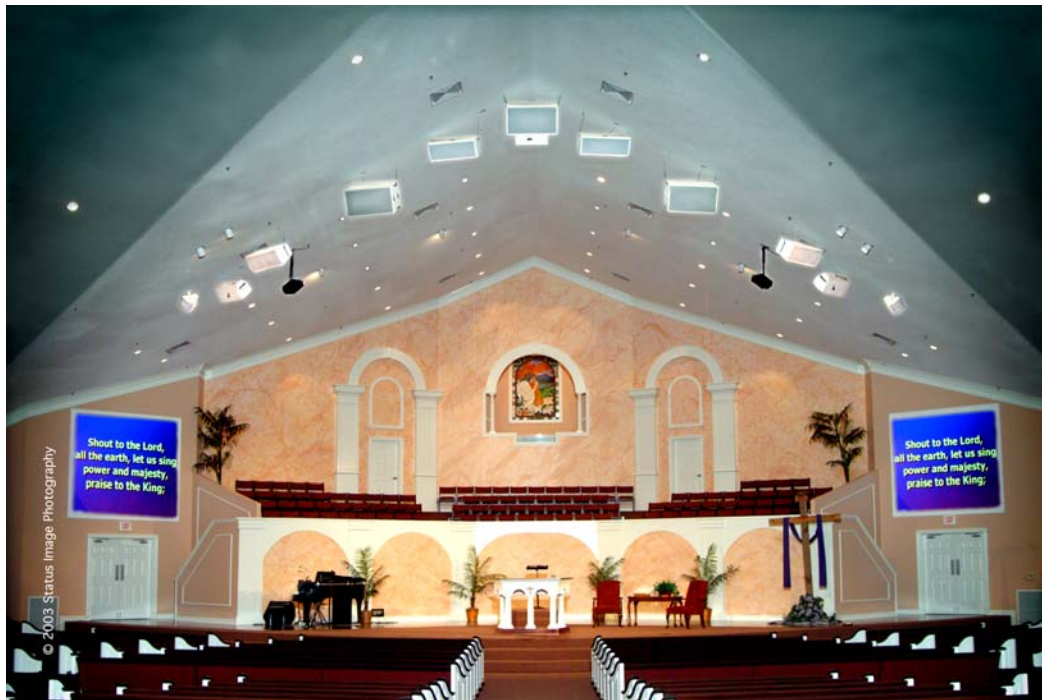


THOMPSON SOUND, INC. INSTALLS VARIOUS ELECTRO-VOICE® LINES AT NEW ATHENS, AL, BAPTIST CHURCH

Athens, AL (October 2, 2003): Michael Thompson has been in the pro audio business for over sixteen years and has over 30 years of hands-on experience with audio and audio/visual equipment. He has been involved in almost every aspect of the industry, from Assistant Recording Engineer at Wishbone Recording Studio in Muscle Shoals during the 1980s to installing state of the art sound reinforcement at numerous churches in his region, an occupation that now constitutes approximately 90 percent of his company's business. The Lindsay Lane Baptist Church in Athens, Alabama has a new worship center that seats about 1800 congregation members. Thompson Sound, Inc. was responsible for installing sound reinforcement and video projection in the nine-month old building, and once again worked closely with Electro-Voice reps Wilson Audio Sales in the process. Michael Thompson offered some thoughts on his specialized field, and the equipment that helps him keep congregations happy around Alabama:



The Sanctuary at Lindsay Lane

"I've been working with and operating sound equipment for over 30 years, since I was a teenager at church, through college working at Wishbone recording studio in Muscle Shoals, and traveling with church groups across the U.S., North America, and overseas. Since then I've probably been at more church services, musicals, weddings and funerals than many pastors! I've been installing sound systems full time since 1987,

initially as a sub contractor for another firm, then as a full time contractor signing on with Altec (as my first equipment supplier) in the early '90s. I stayed through the Electro-Voice and Altec consolidation, and through the Telex purchase of EV. Over 30 years I've seen EV evolve into this industry, and they remain the primary choice for the kind of work I do. For this particular installation we used Electro-Voice QRx, FRI, EVID and Eliminator loudspeakers, various EV CPS amplifiers, and a number of EV wired and wireless microphones."

As is common in the trend towards new, high capacity churches with extensive A/V facilities, the Lindsay Lane Baptist Church's sanctuary is a large, fan shaped room. The building was constructed without any acoustic consultation, so Thompson approached it as they would a gymnasium or any large reverberant space. The church had already added about 2000 square feet of custom built, thick acoustic absorbing panels, but intelligibility still suffered. Jim Hall Acoustic Research (Nashville) came down and helped Michael "detune" the sound system he installed to make it more compatible with the highly reflective surfaces in the room. Thompson states, "The standard practice of tuning most systems with an RTA did not work here. We had a flat response curve that looked GREAT but sounded awful". Hall brought along some of the new Smaart® software, which Michael himself intends to purchase very soon, which allowed them to "detune" the system precisely to bring out the clarity of the spoken word.



L: Michael Thompson, President, Thompson Sound, Inc., R: Bradley Griggs, Minister of Music and Administration, Lindsay Lane Baptist Church

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With this in mind, Thompson offered some insight into a constant challenge in this industry: “As happens a lot in spaces where acoustics weren’t high on the architectural agenda for budgeting reasons, a contractor can install a great system that sounds pretty poor initially, until it’s flattened or detuned to the room. In this case Jim and I did whatever it took with changes to the EQ’s and delays to bring up the intelligibility whether it “looked” good on the RTA or not. Smart allowed us to “see & hear” the sound system and room independently. This particular room wasn’t too problematic, as we had some acoustic panels to work with that were added, but in the long run it seems to be more cost effective to specify adequately absorbent wall material over sheet rock. Adding the absorbent materials after the fact rather than during the construction process is invariably more costly than what absorbent surfaces would have cost in the first place. In this sense it helps that EV manufactures a wide range of loudspeakers that allow a contractor to spec in audio equipment of all shapes and sizes according to his prior experience, with the confidence that they can be precisely tweaked by more scientific means if the room is particularly unforgiving.”

“The front of the sanctuary at Lindsay Lane has a raised, peaked ceiling over the stage area. We installed a ‘split cluster’ around the proscenium, and a delayed ring of speakers about 48-feet out from the stage to provide a little extra mid and high frequency information to the rear seating area during softer passages. This also helps to reduce the reflection off of the back wall a little bit too. The main cluster consists of 3 free flown QRx-218 subwoofers and (4) QRx-212/75s. For left and right side fills at the front we have a pair of FRi-2082s. For the delayed cluster around the rear of the sanctuary we used EVID 6.2Ts. The overhead stage foldback

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speakers are flown QRx-112/75s, and for the floor monitors we used (4) Eliminator i boxes. The 8 choir microphones are RE90HWs. We have (4) additional Polar Choice™ mics available for use on stands for smaller groups, several EV® Cobalt™ Co9s, N/D 767a's and miscellaneous other EV microphones, like the N/D468 instrument mics, on hand for various applications. We use (2) EV CPS4 amplifiers, 1 CPS3, 1 CPS2, 1 CPS2T, and 1 P1200 power amplifier. We also use a Telex SM1 hearing impaired system. The Telex intercom system comprises of a PS-1F power supply, (4) BP-1002 beltpacks, (3) PH-88 headsets, and (1) HS-6A handset. It's all covered."



Thompson continued: "I actually went on the web and did a search for acoustics in fan shaped rooms. I was amazed at how much free information is out there, which I suppose reflects interest in a booming industry. I recently updated a system at a church in Southern Alabama, a rectangular space. It was a piece of cake in comparison, showing how times are changing. The Lindsay Lane Church was more challenging, but ended up being more professionally rewarding, as it shows potential clients we can do this kind of large scale work and confidently install equipment that has control and definition. As a manufacturer, EV is in step with this progress, especially in terms of mics and speakers that need to perform in a manner peculiar to this specific environment. And the RE90 choir microphones get the highest praise from all who attend the services. Another element of installing a more sophisticated system for a more acoustically complex room is to have the capacity to fly speakers to allow

precise sound distribution without compromise. There are as many people in this sanctuary as at a show at a large civic auditorium! All the EV loudspeaker lines feature state of the art rigging hardware. In fact, I became a certified loudspeaker rigger at the NSCA in Denver last year. Safe rigging of speakers is becoming more important in the church installation market as the buildings are getting larger and the speaker components larger and heavier for the more contemporary music filled services in many churches.”

Thompson added: “The church is basically all on one level - there’s no balcony. The choir loft seats well over 100 people, and the main auditorium seating is being expanded to seat around 1800. The church has a large choir that sounds fantastic. As with a lot of churches these days, there are a lot of different worship styles going on under one roof, especially with the popularity of contemporary Christian music. Lindsay Lane has had several groups come in for concerts that have utilized parts of the main system as well as their own gear to great effect. Having the big QRx subs on hand is a real bonus with some of the youth oriented music groups that come through. This installation allows us the versatility to accommodate all styles easily, which in turn keeps all ages and tastes in the congregation happy. I actually recorded 115 dB SPL in the room (during one rehearsal, the concert was kept a little lower), which shows again how times are changing in this industry. We worked closely with the electricians (J&D Electrical Contractors of Decatur, AL.) to get (4) 30-amp circuits dedicated solely for sound. Quite simply, people have higher expectations today, and the approach to church A/V installation has had to change with the times.”

**Lindsay Lane Baptist Church, Athens, Alabama
 Electro-Voice Equipment List:**

EV	P-1200	House HF amplifier
EV	CPS-3	House MF amplifier
EV	CPS-4	House Subwoofer amplifier
EV	CPS-2T	Rear delayed speaker and hallway auxiliary speaker amplifier
EV	CPS-2	Front left & right fill speakers and stage overhead foldback monitor speakers amplifier
EV	CPS-2	Floor monitor speaker amplifier
EV	QRx-212/75W	Main Mid/High Speakers
EV	QRx-218SW/R	Main subwoofer speakers
EV	EVID-6.2w	Delayed speaker systems

EV	QRx-112/75W	Stage overhead foldback monitor speaker systems
EV	Eliminator "M"	Floor monitor speakers
EV	209-4T	Auxiliary speakers, baffles, supports
EV	RE90HW	Choir microphones
EV	RE90P-18	Pulpit microphone
EV	RE90B	Piano Mic
EV	RE90HW	Audience response mics
EV	N/D 767a	Handheld microphones
EV	N/D 468a	Instrument microphones
EV	PolarChoice™	18" gooseneck microphones from old sanctuary for small group or overhead instrument mic'ing
EV	RE90T/EX	Lapel microphones for wireless
EV	NBPU	Beltpack transmitters
EV	NHTU-N7	Handheld transmitters
EV	NRSCU	Wireless receivers
EV	APD-4	Antenna distribution amplifiers
EV	Various	Wireless misc. hardware

For information on these and other Electro-Voice® products, please visit www.electrovoice.com

(more)

Electro-Voice® is a professional audio brand of Telex Communications, Inc., a leader in the design, manufacture and marketing of sophisticated audio, wireless, multimedia, aircraft, broadcast and communications equipment for commercial, professional and industrial customers. Telex Communications markets its products in more than 80 countries under the brands EV®, Telex®, RTS™, Dynacord®, Midas®, Klark Teknik®, University® and others.

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