

Campaign for Music and Theatre



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

Con Passione

THE CAMPAIGN FOR MUSIC AND THEATRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

“A beautiful environment affects the musicians, the audience and the music that’s produced. A great building, like a great performance, is built from passion and details that people have labored over because they really loved it.”

—Daniel L. Ritchie,
University of Denver
Chancellor and former
piano student



It is true that music and theatre can happen anywhere. But it is also true that great art grows out of sacred space. ~ Great musical or theatrical ideas—Beethoven’s *Fifth Symphony*, Wagner’s *Ring*, or Duke Ellington’s *Such Sweet Thunder*—need appropriate venues in which to soar. Certainly Henry V could muster his band of brothers in a tiny black-box theatre. But how much better for a young actor to open his heart and voice to the fullest, sending Shakespeare’s couplets to the farthest reaches of a packed and appreciative house?

At the University of Denver, we are committed to the development of the whole person—body, mind and spirit. We passionately embrace the idea that art is central to a full and rich life. It is for this reason that we are building the University of Denver Performing Arts Center—a work of art to house the University of Denver’s performing artists.

The Lamont School of Music and the University of Denver Department of Theatre maintain long traditions in educating musicians, actors, lighting technicians, conductors, directors, teachers and designers—people who have become part of America’s cultural landscape. The performing arts center will provide a physical home for performance on campus—a place for young artists to hone their talents, to take creative risks and to

establish themselves as artists of the highest degree. With your support we can encourage the evolution of young performers and invigorate the performing arts throughout the Rocky Mountain region.



WHY BUILD A PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT DU?

“When bricks and mortar are beautifully conceived, where the building itself is a work of art, it helps students learn and achieve by providing an inspiring environment, as well as inspiring audiences to attend.”

—Joe Docksey, Director
Lamont School of Music



The performing arts center brings us closer to unifying the University on one campus. Today the University of Denver operates on two campuses—the main campus located at University Park and the Park Hill campus in northeast Denver, where the Lamont School of Music now resides. The performing arts center will bring the Lamont School of Music home to University Park, giving music faculty and students access to friends and colleagues in other fields while bringing the gift of music to the University community as a whole.

The performing arts center will also provide theatre students and faculty with state-of-the-art, flexible performance and rehearsal spaces, enabling DU actors and directors to explore scripts and staging configurations that currently aren't possible.

On a practical note: Music students, who today must commute many hours a week from the Park Hill campus, will fulfill their Core requirements in classrooms on the University Park campus only a short walk away. Student musicians in other majors will now have the opportunity to participate in Lamont School of Music ensembles, enhancing the character of their education and the quality of Lamont's groups. And then there's the sheer joy of having a major arts center right in the heart of campus, where students, faculty and staff

can walk to recitals, operas, symphony concerts and plays—a place where people can come together and share common cultural experiences and the creative expression of their friends and colleagues.



In Harmony

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A CASE FOR THE COMMUNITY

“The Lamont School of Music will operate more effectively and accrue the benefits of synergy when it is part of an integrated campus.”

—John Low, DU Trustee



*W*e are not simply looking inward in our consideration of this building, but also to our role in the community.

The University of Denver Performing Arts Center will provide an easily accessible showcase for our own University-sponsored events, as well as for world-class performers and regional artists. Our acoustically superior 1,000-seat concert/opera hall will provide an appropriate space for performers who prefer mid-size venues. It will also give our University neighbors and the Denver community a rich cultural resource, the chance to sample chamber music recitals, grand opera, classic and avant-garde theatre, symphony concerts, jazz evenings and musicals. The performing arts center will give us a chance to be better neighbors, to extend our educational and cultural reach into the community in ways that enrich the city in which we live.

Act 1

THE BUILDING

Quite simply: The performing arts center at the University of Denver will be a lasting work of art—a fitting place for our fine musicians and thespians. Inspired by paintings and frescoes depicting the old Basilica of Constantine in Rome—a fourth-century church that was razed for the building of the existing St. Peter’s—the performing arts center combines state-of-the-art building techniques with architectural ideas found on campus, in

the western United States and throughout medieval and Renaissance Europe. Located at the southwest corner of East Iliff Avenue and South University Boulevard, the 179,000 square-foot performing arts center will anchor the south end of campus architecturally with an impressive stone edifice that echoes the stonework and lines of the Daniel L. Ritchie Sports and Wellness Center to the north. Built from the same warm beige Indiana limestone and earthy red Hansen stone from Utah, the colors of the building evoke Colorado’s canyon lands and the state’s sun-drenched deserts. Flanking the building’s Iliff Avenue entrance will be two limestone caryatids—a vocalist and viola player—sculptural motifs signaling this as the University’s safe haven for performance. Like many of the buildings on campus, the performing arts center’s pitched roofs will be covered in copper—to withstand our winters and provide an additional visual link to other major University buildings. The performing arts center at the University of Denver is designed to last 350 years—at the very least.



Setting the Stage

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THE SET PIECES

“Theatre is where all the arts come together, where people learn about philosophy, art, music and language. Everything that comprises the other liberal arts is encapsulated in a theatrical performance.”

—William Temple (Davy) Davis,
Assistant Professor of Theatre;
scene and lighting designer



The center will include a five-story academic building, a 250-seat recital hall, a 250-seat flexible theatre and a 1,000-seat grand concert/opera hall for University and community use.

The academic portion of the building will house the Lamont School of Music, including the recital hall with its freestanding pipe organ; rehearsal halls for orchestra, chorus, opera and jazz; a music library; classrooms; seminar rooms; administrative offices; teaching studios and practice rooms. Every performance space will be wired to a central recording studio, and all teaching spaces will have Internet access and full audio/visual technology. Students and faculty will also have the chance to work in a MIDI lab, where they can compose directly on electronic keyboards and arrange, play back and print entire scores electronically.

Located between the academic building on the north and the concert/opera hall to the south will be a striking grand lobby/public commons, which all performance venues will share. The heart of the building will be the 1,000-seat intimate concert/opera hall that mixes old world tradition with superb acoustics, outstanding sight lines and a double-lift orchestra pit—allowing maximum flexibility for symphonic, operatic and musical performances, as well as distinguished lecturers.

The 250-seat flexible theatre will easily convert to proscenium arch, “round,” thrust, end-stage, center-stage, corner-stage, alley-stage and promenade theatres—giving students the opportunity to perform and design for a wide range of actor-audience configurations. The performing arts center will also provide dressing rooms, scene and costume shops, green rooms where audience members can greet the cast, and box office and storage spaces.



THE CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVE

To support our goal of building a work of art to house the performing arts, we seek \$60+ million—\$50+ million to build the performing arts center and at least \$10 million in endowment for scholarships, program support and building maintenance. We are looking to you to support this long-held dream of giving music and theatre at the University of Denver the first-class facility they deserve.

Encore

THE BENEFITS

We are creating an enduring work of art, a building that will outlast all of us. Like experiencing a breathtaking performance, many of the benefits of this facility are intangible: A beautiful building is awe-inspiring. A state-of-the-art teaching facility provides faculty and students with increased opportunities for learning. A stunning performance is sublime, beyond words.

What we can say with certainty is that a new performing arts center will help:

- ◆ Showcase the elite faculty and students of music and theatre at DU
- ◆ Recruit and retain outstanding music and theatre faculty and students
- ◆ Support music and theatre pedagogy with state-of-the-art teaching facilities

- ◆ Integrate the Lamont School of Music students and faculty into life at University Park
- ◆ Provide increased opportunities for creative expression among University students
- ◆ Support the undergraduate liberal arts curriculum at the University of Denver
- ◆ Enhance the University's educational relationship to the community
- ◆ Create a cultural center in southeast Denver
- ◆ Provide additional venues for outside musical and theatre groups

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

A gift to the Campaign for Music and Theatre is an investment in our cultural heritage; it is an act of passion. To support young artists as they find themselves is a gift we give ourselves and the future. Please join us as we build this lasting home for the performing arts at the University of Denver. Your participation will greatly enhance the vitality of this campaign and help the University maintain its historical tradition of excellence in music and theatre.

"This building will recognize the quality of the Lamont School of Music and the difference it is making in many lives. Now everybody else will get to hear them, too."

—Marion Gottesfeld,
DU Trustee and founder
of the Lamont
Music Associates





*We thank you
for listening.*



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