

Performing Arts Center  
Renovation/Addition/  
Restoration

**EARL SWENSSON  
ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Architect/Interior Designer  
2100 W. End Ave., Suite 1200  
Nashville, TN 37203  
www.esarch.com  
Sandy Dickerson  
615/329-9445

**DESIGN TEAM**

CHASECO, Program Manager  
American Constructors, Inc.,  
General Contractor  
Ross Bryan Associates, Inc.,  
Structural Engineer  
Ingram Civil Engineering Group,  
LLC, Civil Engineer  
Comfort Control,  
Mechanical Engineer  
Enterprise Electric,  
Electrical Engineer

**OWNER/CLIENT**

Belmont University  
Nashville, TN  
Dr. Robert Fisher, President  
615/460-6793  
Type of School and  
Grades Served:  
University, Undergraduate/  
Graduate  
Capacity: 5,023 students  
Size of Site: 62 acres  
Area of Building: New: Theater,  
5,495 square feet,  
Black Box: 7,456 square feet /  
Renovations: 24,159 square feet  
Square Foot Cost: \$266  
Cost of Construction:  
\$9.9 million  
Contract Date: April 2005  
Completion Date: Aug. 2007  
Percent of Completion: 100%

# Belmont University— Bill and Carole Troutt Theater

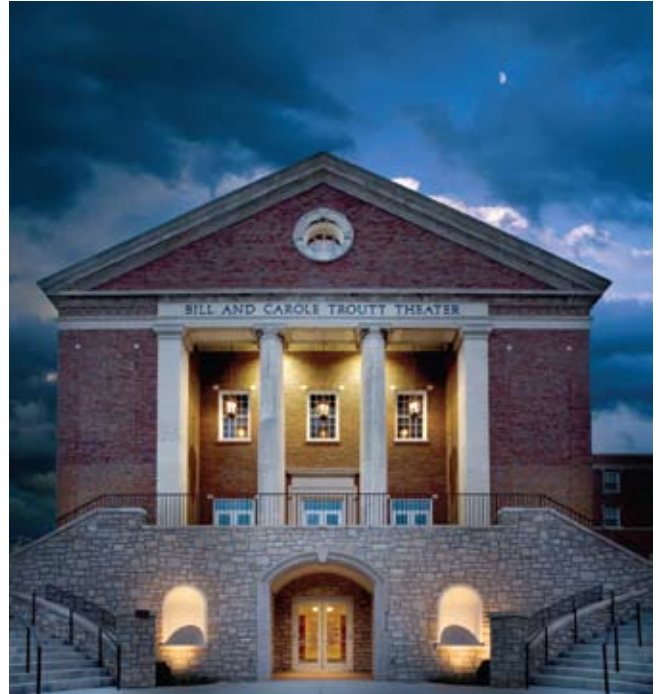
*Nashville, Tennessee*

Earl Swensson Associates, Inc.

A Belmont University-owned historic church building has gained new life through conversion into the university's 357-seat drama theater with an orchestra level and balcony.

Previous to its new use, the two-story sanctuary space had been framed over to serve as offices for the School of Nursing, and the spectacular beauty of the barrel-vault ceiling had been hidden with laid-in acoustical tiles. For the conversion, the building's auditorium interior was stripped back to uncover features of the original sanctuary and balcony. Working from the old, original documents, the design team was able to duplicate the building's styles of moldings, doors, and window casings.

Major modifications were made to the seating configurations in the audience chamber to improve sightlines. This included removing the floor to install slope-rack seating. The sanctuary's original chandelier was found and rehabilitated



FRONT EXTERIOR

to its former grandness. For the stage, the proscenium arch and fly tower were created with the removal of the back wall.

Connected by a scene shop, the second theater in

the complex is a new black box addition, which doubles as an experimental theater for smaller productions and as a classroom.

The building now glows with new purpose. ■



AUDITORIUM



BLACK BOX THEATER

PHOTOS: VINCE WALLACE/SILVER HILL IMAGES