

Thern

Case History

Theatre



Thern Winch Lights Up Performing Arts Center

Winning one of Indiana's most prestigious design awards, the Phillippe Performing Arts Center on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University is unlike any other you'd find on college grounds. The Christian-based university – located about an hour north of Indianapolis – built the facility to fittingly resemble the shape of a grand piano. Inside, it offers 70,000 square feet of classroom and performing arts space, including its main 1155-seat auditorium.

Within the auditorium, guests are greeted by an overhead spectacle of 1,300 “twinkle lamps.” Hanging independently, the lamps present a challenge when it comes to switching light fixtures or replacing bulbs. As a result, following the failure of a previously installed winch, the University chose a Thern, Inc. CWV1-2500 Clew Winch to control the lighting grid.

Indiana Wesleyan's wall-mounted model is capable of a 2,500 lb load capacity and features single reduction bronze worm gearing, allowing for accurate and secure operation. Thern worked with stage-hand professionals to develop this line of winches, which are made specifically for theater operation. As a result, the winch also has a load holding brake and lock out pin that secures the drum in 12 different positions at 30-degree increments. The pin provides secondary load holding and prevents unauthorized use. And to assure long-term functionality, the winch gears are sealed in an oil bath to provide continuous lubrication and minimize wear.

“The Thern winch makes it easy to lower the grids to make lamping changes,” said Michael Cooper, Manager of Technical Services at the university, “they just lower it to base level and we can make



Thern clew winches installed at the Phillippe Center.

adjustments or service mechanical issues as needed.”

Cooper also stated that he is looking forward to having his and his staff's workflow improve. “We relamped everything when it was down for replacement [after the previous winch failed], but going forward it should make everyone's job easier,” he said.

Making lifting and hoisting jobs easier has been Thern's specialty for over 30 years. During that time, they've established a worldwide reputation for toughness, versatility and reliability.

