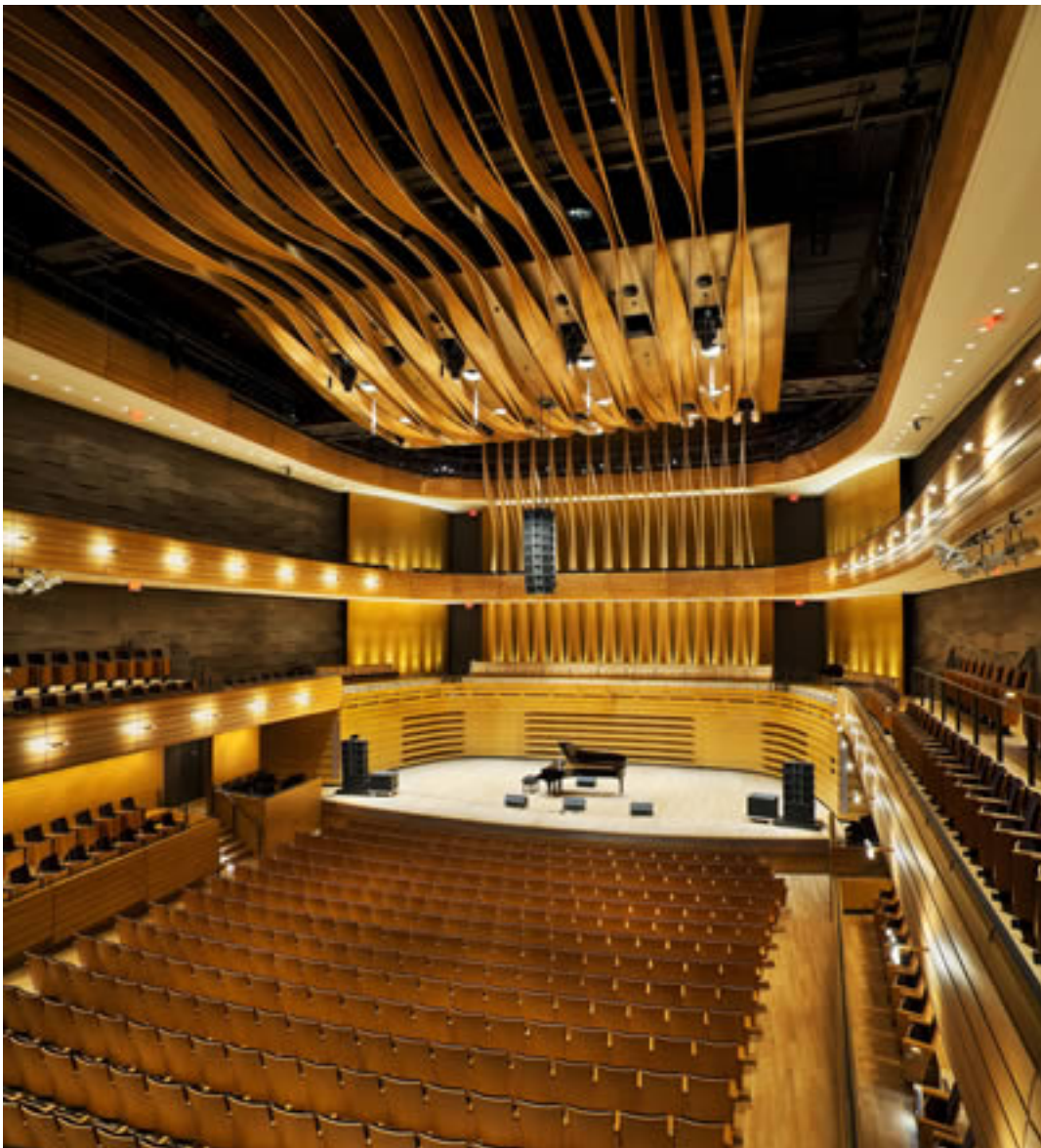


The Royal Conservatory of Music officially celebrates the completion of the new home for Canada's premier music and arts educator on Sept. 25, 2009.

The new TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning is the last jewel in the crown of Toronto's Cultural Renaissance, a phenomenon that was catalysed in the slipstream of the Bilbao effect. Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects (KPMB), under the direction of partner Marianne McKenna, has been committed to working with the RCM for over 20 years to realize the vision which was first set forth in 1991 with the award winning Master Plan.

All Photographs by Tom Arban



Conceived as 'a series of great rooms' for music, the Centre manifests The Royal Conservatory's ambitious dream for a unique hybrid facility. The centrepiece of the project is the 1139-seat performance venue, Koerner Hall, which signals the expanded role of the RCM as a cultural destination for public enjoyment. With its distinctive interior and world caliber acoustics,

Koerner Hall will create a recognizable icon for the RCM, locally and internationally.

The project also includes three tiers of glass-fronted lobbies overlooking Philosopher's Walk, back-of-house areas for performers, the café at the ground floor level, and an installation of unique antique musical instruments donated by Michael Koerner. The lobbies, named The Leslie and Anna Dan Gallerias, offer breathtaking views of the University of Toronto and the City, and provide ample room and bars and seating to host a variety of events and functions. The first floor lobby is a three storey space with limestone floors and is designed to accommodate 200 for seated dinners. A glass-enclosed room at the second balcony level, named in memory of Hin Shiu Hung, promises to be a much sought after venue for meetings and private entertaining.





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Revaluing History



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Public space for the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning in Toronto. Photo: © KPMB Architects

