This 24,600GSF, $7M facility opened in October 2003 to wonderful acclaim with an invitation-only performance by celebrated poet Maya Angelou and the string section of the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra. The full orchestra since returned (at their own request) because they so enjoy its acoustics. The 350-seat hall’s variable acoustic beautifully accommodates performance of all sorts, ranging from storytelling to dance, drama and multiple music styles. The hall offers a fine orchestra shell, orchestra pit and supporting scene shop, costume shop, makeup lab, dressing rooms, and AV control suite. Its design was driven by a desire to evoke for the audience, a sense of being within a fine string instrument which led to unusually careful sidewall shaping to achieve a sense of acoustical envelopment. The complex also includes faculty offices, two multipurpose classrooms, a classroom/studio dedicated to dance, plus a 100-seat variable acoustics studio theater which serves as a recording studio, a venue for experimental theater or used as rehearsal space. MCH provided full-scope acoustical design for the entire facility.

Reference: Dr. Jerome K. Garrison, Chair, Comm. & Fine Arts  
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