The 1924 Historic 45,113 sf Balboa served both Vaudeville and movies. Shuttered since the 1970s, it opened to rave reviews in January 2008. MCH's several reuse examinations indicated that its potential for symphony, chamber music and opera was extraordinary. MCH capitalized on these attributes and extended the room's functionality with both a proper sound system and variable acoustics during a $26M restoration. For San Diego's growing performing arts groups, the theater's size (1350 seats) and acoustical properties are now an ideal match. "It's not only the acoustics in the theater, but the feeling in the theater, the spirit of the theater. The intimacy," says Nancy Bojanic, Mainly Mozart's executive director. "I thought the sound was very warm and resonant," says Greg Raden, "And there was life to the sound. And certainly, what more could you ask for? As soon as the musicians began rehearsing, the impression was that we really hit it here." - Principal Clarinetist, Greg Raden

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BALBOA THEATRE
RESTORATION
SAN DIEGO, CA