Great Performances at Chautauqua Institution with Multistack Air-Cooled Chillers
Quiet Operation and Effective Temperature and Humidity Control at arts, music center.

Chautauqua Lake, New York

Above Left: A Multistack air-cooled packaged chiller serving the Strohl Art Center at Chautauqua Institution.
Above Right: Fletcher Music Hall at Chautauqua Institution seats up to 250 persons. Since opening in 2008 it has hosted numerous recitals and concerts by Chautauqua students and world-famous musicians. Photo courtesy of Chautauqua Institution.

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There's more to a soul-stirring Beethoven piano concerto and an intriguing Picasso painting than meets the ear and eye. Much goes on behind the scenes to enhance our enjoyment of the performing and visual arts. Such is the case at the Chautauqua Institution's Fletcher Music Hall and the Strohl Visual Arts Center.

Quiet Comfort
Fletcher Music Hall at Chautauqua Institution is a modern, acoustically-sound recital hall seating up to 250 persons. Since opening Fletcher Hall has hosted numerous recitals and concerts by Chautauqua Institution students and world-famous musicians.

Concert-goers want to hear music without being distracted by a noisy air conditioning system. When planning the Fletcher Music Hall, the Chautauqua Institution retained Architect Michael J. Conroe, AIA, to do the design work. Conroe’s specifications to the HVAC contractors and suppliers competing for the project included strict noise requirements. Multistack LLC of Sparta, Wisconsin, met those requirements. Multistack, the world leader in the design and manufacture of modular heating and cooling systems, provided two packaged air-cooled chillers for Fletcher Music Hall. Although the chillers are installed directly outside the music hall, little, if any, compressor or fan noise is transmitted inside the hall. Chilled water generated by the Multistack chillers is piped to air handlers serving the music hall.

Multistack Packaged Air-Cooled Chillers
Features & Benefits
- Multiple independent refrigerant circuits
- Quick interconnect modular design
- Electronic chilled water temperature and capacity control
- BACnet interoperability
- Stainless steel evaporators; aluminum fins with copper tube condensers
- Ideal for renovation, retrofit projects. Modular design eases installation in limited-space mechanical rooms. Modules fit through standard-width doors and into passenger elevators
- N-1 redundancy, ideal for critical cooling applications
- Low maintenance requirements
- Fast delivery
- Dual condenser fans per module with VFDs for quiet, efficient operation

Multistack Packaged Air-Cooled Chillers

Continued on next page...
Michael Conroe states that among the reasons for the super-quiet chiller operation were “the strict limits on the flow rate of air into the music hall. ‘We had to limit the amount of HVAC unit and duct noise. We also didn’t want to shock the musical instruments with rapid changes in temperature and humidity.’

Under scoring the performance of the HVAC system is the fact that the Chautauqua Institution’s summer music festival is one of only four official Steinway summer programs. The Chautauqua Summer Festival maintains a first-rate fleet of Steinway grand pianos for practice, lessons, and performance. These pianos require careful, constant temperature and humidity control.

Pretty As A Picture
While the Fletcher Music Hall was a new-construction building with its own strict HVAC requirements, the renovation of the Strohl Visual Arts Center—including installation of air conditioning—was an even bigger challenge. Michael Conroe says, “Some of the exterior walls of this 100-year-old building had a five-degree lean. We essentially lifted the building off the foundation, straightened the walls and then reset the building.”

The Strohl Visual Arts Center is also served by Multistack air-cooled chillers. Art galleries require careful temperature and humidity control not only for visitor comfort, but very importantly to protect and preserve paintings and sculptures. These requirements are essential for venues like the Strohl Visual Arts Center to be able to attract major traveling art exhibits. As the architect on the project, Michael Conroe specified that the Strohl galleries be able to maintain close temperature control with no more than a plus or minus five-degree temperature change from setpoint within a 24-hour period. The humidity control specification allows no more than a three percent relative humidity change within 24 hours.

Doug Conroe, Director of Operations at Chautauqua Institution, says the Multistack chiller at Fletcher Music Hall is performing as expected and is meeting the strict temperature and humidity requirements.

“We’re satisfied with the Multistack chillers and would certainly consider these units for future projects at Chautauqua Institution.”

— Doug Conroe, Director of Operations, Chautauqua Institution
About Multistack

Originators. Innovators. Never the Imitators.
The best HVAC companies are no longer the biggest. The best companies are—the best! They are best at helping customers meet their needs and achieve their goals. They are best because they’re agile—using technology, innovation, creativity and sustainability to bring a wide range of excellent products and services to building owners and operators. Multistack is exactly that kind of company with products that offer high efficiency, redundancy, expandability, serviceability, low sound and minimal carbon footprint. Multistack boasts speedy ship cycles including the best in the industry for modular chillers. Multistack LLC is a great business founded on the HVAC industry’s core principle of making life better for people. We leverage and apply the value of good ideas to an outstanding array of HVAC products and systems—made in the U.S.A.

Sustainable Choices
Multistack is an environmentally-conscious manufacturer, providing the most cooling and heating output per pound in an industry traditionally unconcerned with embodied energy. By reducing consumption and offsetting emissions, Multistack is the first Carbon Neutral HVAC manufacturer in North America.

Heating and cooling your building with as little an environmental impact as possible should be an important consideration for your next project. Be sure to consider Multistack’s environmental aspects:

- Energy Efficiency
- Water Efficiency
- Zero Fossil Fuel Usage
- Energy Recovery
- Microcharge of Refrigerant
- Small Footprint