

Eastern promise

A versatile performance space draws upon venerated Western brands for a sophisticated sound as **Phil Ward** discovers



SinKwang main worship center from the balcony

SINKWANG CHURCH IS TO BE found in Jeonbuk Iksan City, South Korea. More than 63 years after holding its first service, the church's growing congregation is celebrating a new home outfitted with state-of-the-art lighting, video and sound, including a Meyer Sound Milo line array loudspeaker system and DPA Microphones mics. Furthermore, the new build has drawn upon the house of worship experience of Dallas-based architectural specialist The Beck Group and its regular technical supplier and partner Acoustic Dimensions, also based in Texas.

SinKwang's modern, spacious facility has been designed to be a multipurpose venue and has quickly become a nexus for the local community, hosting a wide cross-section of services, meetings, performances and cultural events. As systems engineer Eric Han of Seoul-based Avix Tech explains, the church elders approached planning the new facility with high standards.

'They looked at the best churches in the US as a benchmark,' Mr Han explains. 'They visited churches including Willow Creek in Prestonwood, Tabernacle in New York and many others, and had a clear idea

of what they wanted to achieve with their new home.'

'We did quite a bit of research,' acknowledges front of house engineer See-Jin Han. 'It enabled us to incorporate both acoustics and technology design into the early stages of construction. We have achieved a superb level of sound quality.'

The system comprises left, centre and right arrays, each containing six Meyer Sound Milo and one Milo 120 line array loudspeakers. Low-frequency coverage is provided by six 700-HP subwoofers under the stage. Six UPA-1P loudspeakers provide front-fill, while balcony seating is covered by 22 UPJ-1P VariO loudspeakers. System drive and processing is handled by a Galileo loudspeaker management system with three Galileo 616 processors.

'The convenience of the Galileo enables us to quickly configure the system for a variety of uses, from sermons to musical performances,' adds See-Jin Han. 'This was an important consideration for us to create not simply a church, but a cultural centre.'

Onstage monitors are mixed directly from an Avid Venue front of house console, with a selection of UM-1P and UM-100P stage monitors providing

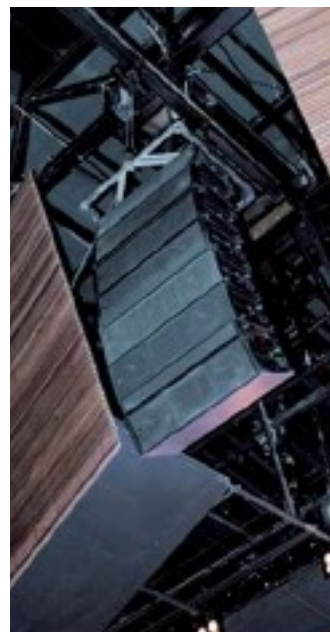
foldback for performers.

'As we did our research, it became clear to all of us that the Meyer Sound system was an essential part of the plan,' enthuses the front of house engineer. 'There was no other system that could deliver that level of intelligibility and versatility. Furthermore, the convenience of the Galileo system enables us to quickly configure the system for a variety of uses, from sermons to musical performances. This was an important consideration for us to create not

simply a church but a cultural centre.'

SinKwang has similarly proved fertile ground for Danish high-end microphone specialist DPA Microphones and its South Korean distributor, Best Leading Solution. Better known within the domestic market as BLS, the distributor's assistance manager Min-Hyoung Park supplied models including the SMK4061 and 4080 to the church.

'We are using the DPA SMK4061 stereo microphone kit for our grand piano,' explains See-Jin Han. 'Usually, the microphones used for the piano have to be stored after every worship as the piano is moved. But in the case



Meyer Sound Milo line array's were used by SinKwan



System drive and processing is handled by a Galileo loudspeaker

of the SMK4061, there are several advantages. The discrete DPA solution sounds amazing and is easy to mount directly into the piano. Most of all, the piano lid can be closed after the installation of the two microphones, so we do not need to relocate them after moving the piano.'

Meanwhile, the second DPA model in use at SinKwang has proven popular with the pastor. The DPA 4080 cardioid lavalier mic has become

hands without any ambient acoustic issues. Originally he wore a headset microphone but felt uncomfortable. Now he is consistently using the 4080, ensuring a clear and engaging sound. The 4080 was chosen following tests of various types and models of lavalier microphones.'

The Beck Group's Tom Greenwood says that SinKwang is a good example of how South Korean churches are sourcing Western expertise at every



Tom Greenwood from the Beck Group

the performance space they wanted to design, the equipment they wanted to use and the acoustics.'

He continues: 'The pastor and other church leaders have toured the US, becoming aware of our work - and the work of Acoustic Dimensions. That led to relationships that have flourished. This has of course continued since SinKwang reopened and people have been able to see the difference. It's had a huge impact on the region.'

www.meyersound.com
www.dpamicrophones.com
www.acousticdimensions.com



DPA SMK4061 microphones installed in a piano

the microphone of choice for the clergyman during preaching. Mr Han comments: 'He especially loves to be able to preach freely using both of his

level of design, build and technical fitting. 'SinKwang is modelled very clearly on the mega churches of the US,' he reasons. 'Especially in terms of



Onstage monitors are mixed directly from an Avid Venue FOH console

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