

**For Immediate Release**

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**Save Our Symphony Minnesota's Survey on Hall Acoustics  
Reveals Mixed Results**

**Minneapolis, March 8, 2014** – In response to informal messages of concern from its followers, Save Our Symphony Minnesota (SOSMN) sent a survey on Orchestra Hall acoustics to its e-Newsletter subscribers. That survey asked patrons about the clarity of sound from the orchestra, soloists and speakers. It asked them to compare their perceptions pre- and post-renovation if possible. Both check-box and textual response options were offered. SOSMN then tabulated the responses in aggregate and by Hall seating area. The results are appended to this press release.

Almost half of the survey respondents reported problems with orchestra clarity and balance. Many of them described the nature of the problems in their textual remarks. Similarly, about half of the respondents reported problems hearing the guest soloists (for concerts that included soloists). About one-third of the respondents reported problems with ambient noise. About half of the respondents who were able to evaluate the sound pre- and post-renovation reported some kind of degradation in the sound.

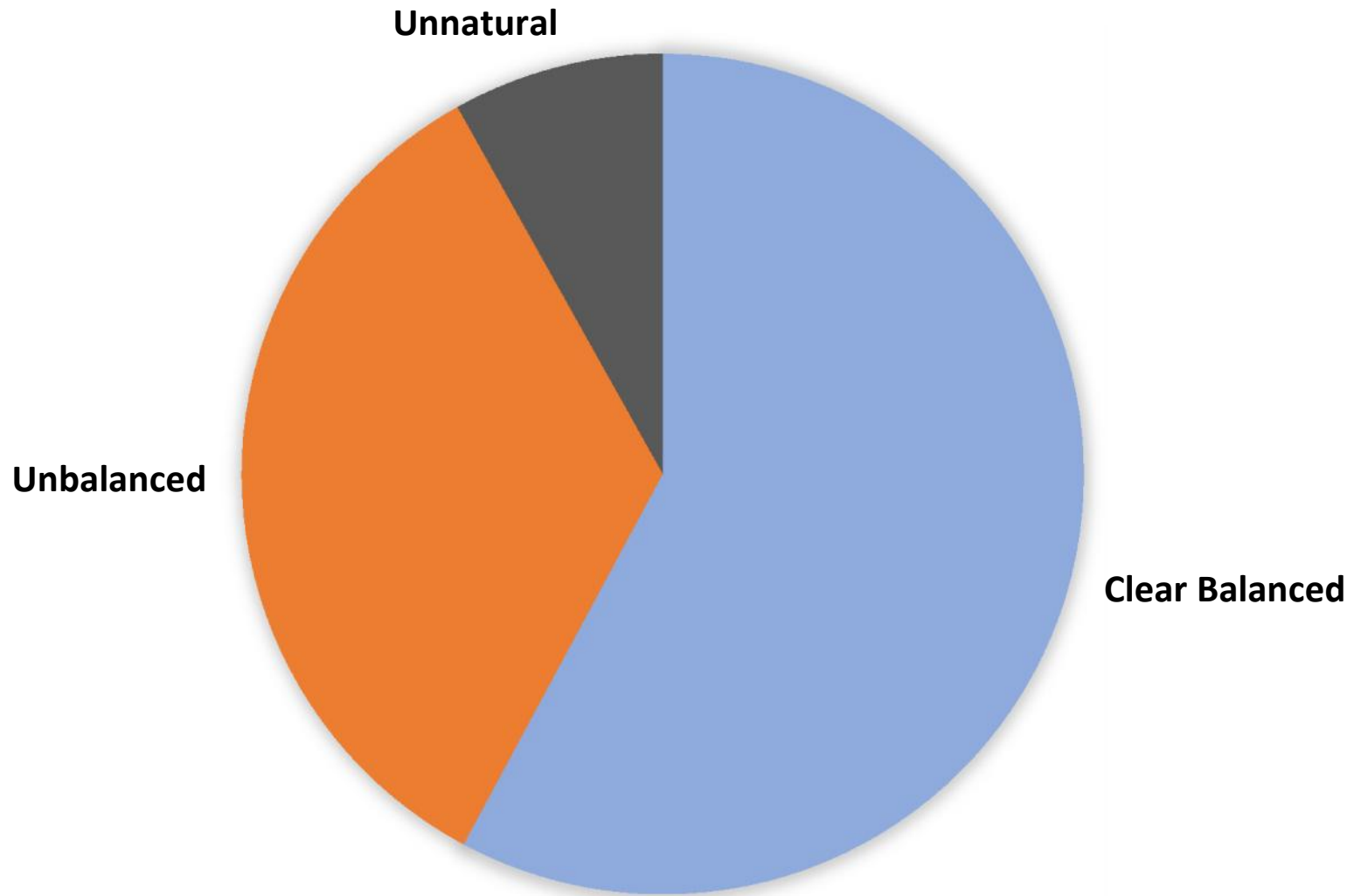
It has been reported that acoustical engineers will be doing some "tuning" of the hall. SOSMN hopes that this data will help them isolate and correct any major problems. Some patrons' concerns seem to relate to the Hall's HVAC system; we understand that HVAC engineers are currently working on those problems and hope that this data will help them as well.

All of this material has been forwarded to Minnesota Orchestral Association Board members.

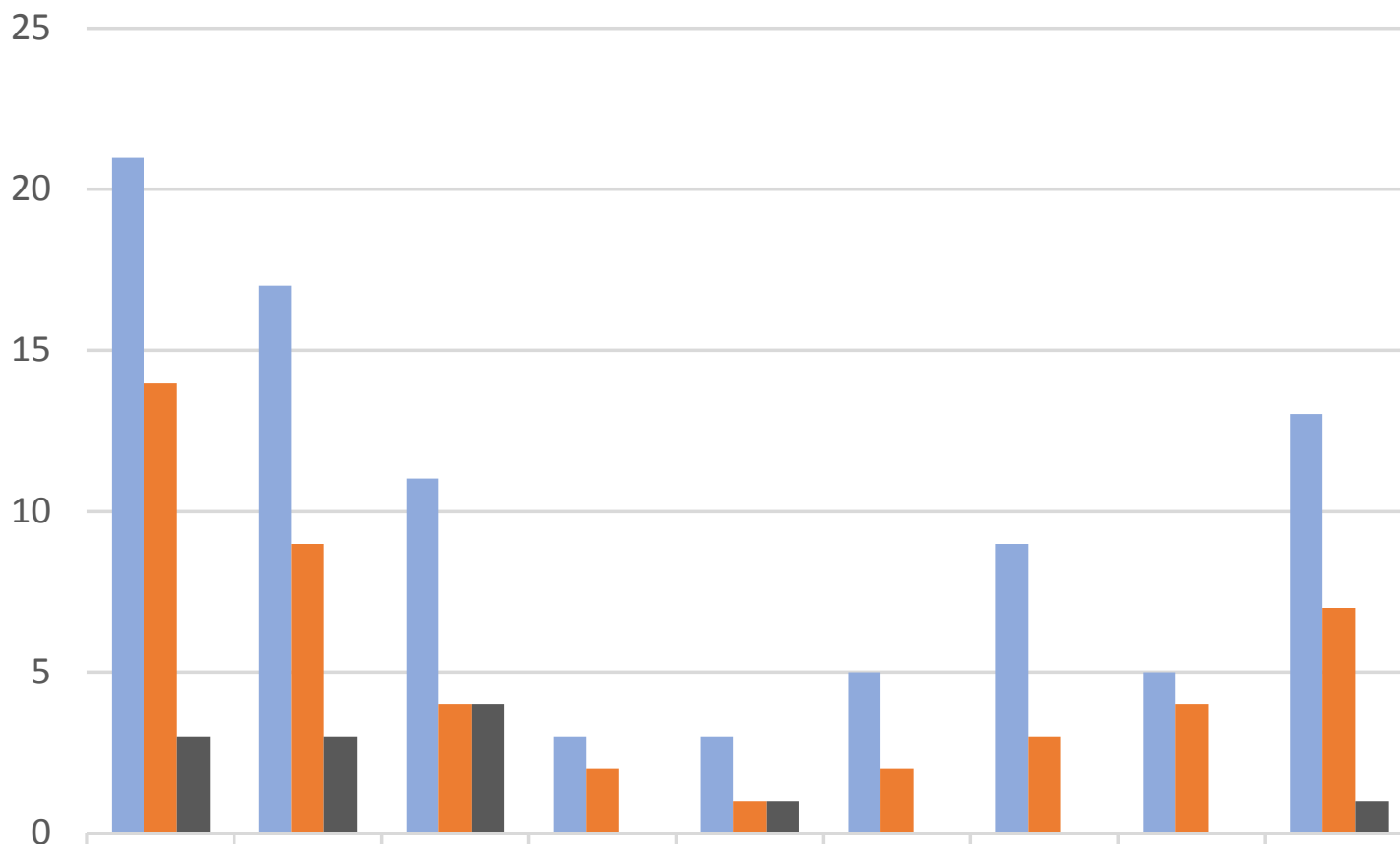
SOSMN is a grassroots group of orchestra patrons and music-lovers devoted to pursuing concrete actions to ensure that Minnesota maintains a world-class orchestra. SOSMN currently has over 11,500 followers on Facebook.

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## ORCHESTRA SOUND - AGGREGATE

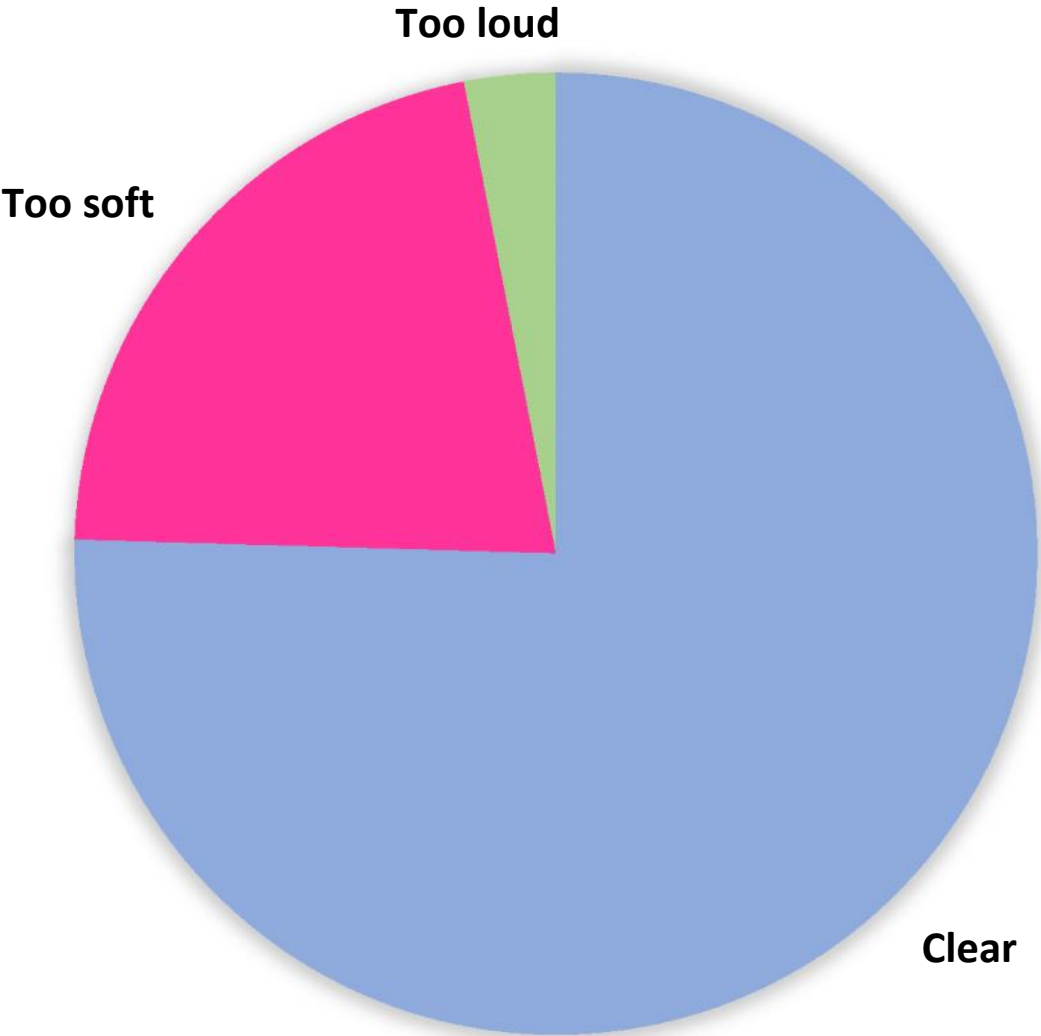


## Orchestra Sound by Seating Area

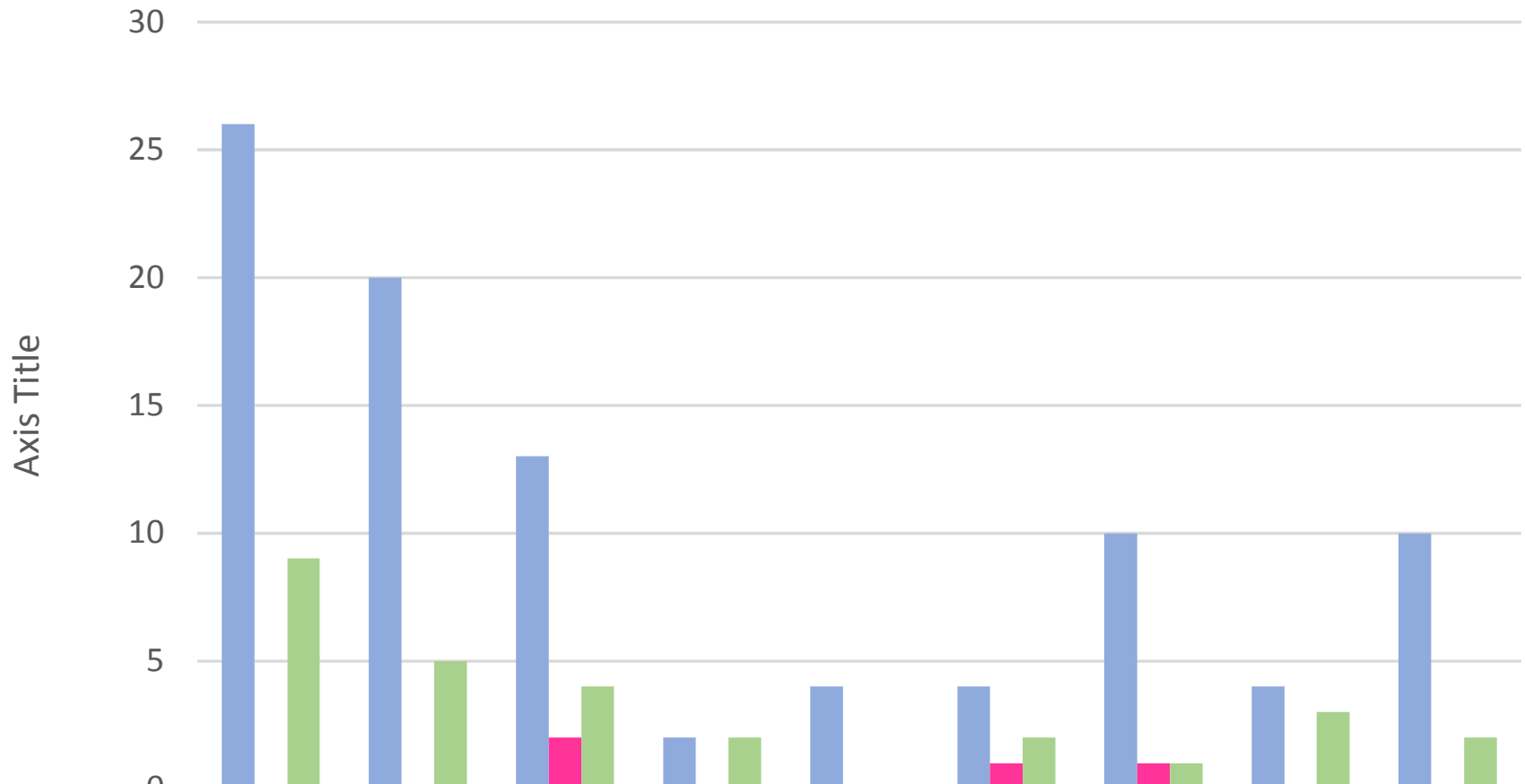


	MF front	MF middle	MF rear	T1 box	T1 rear	T2 box	T2 rear	T3 box	T3 rear
Clear Balanced	21	17	11	3	3	5	9	5	13
Unbalanced	14	9	4	2	1	2	3	4	7
Unnatural	3	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	1

# ORCHESTRAL SOLOIST CLARITY - AGGREGATE

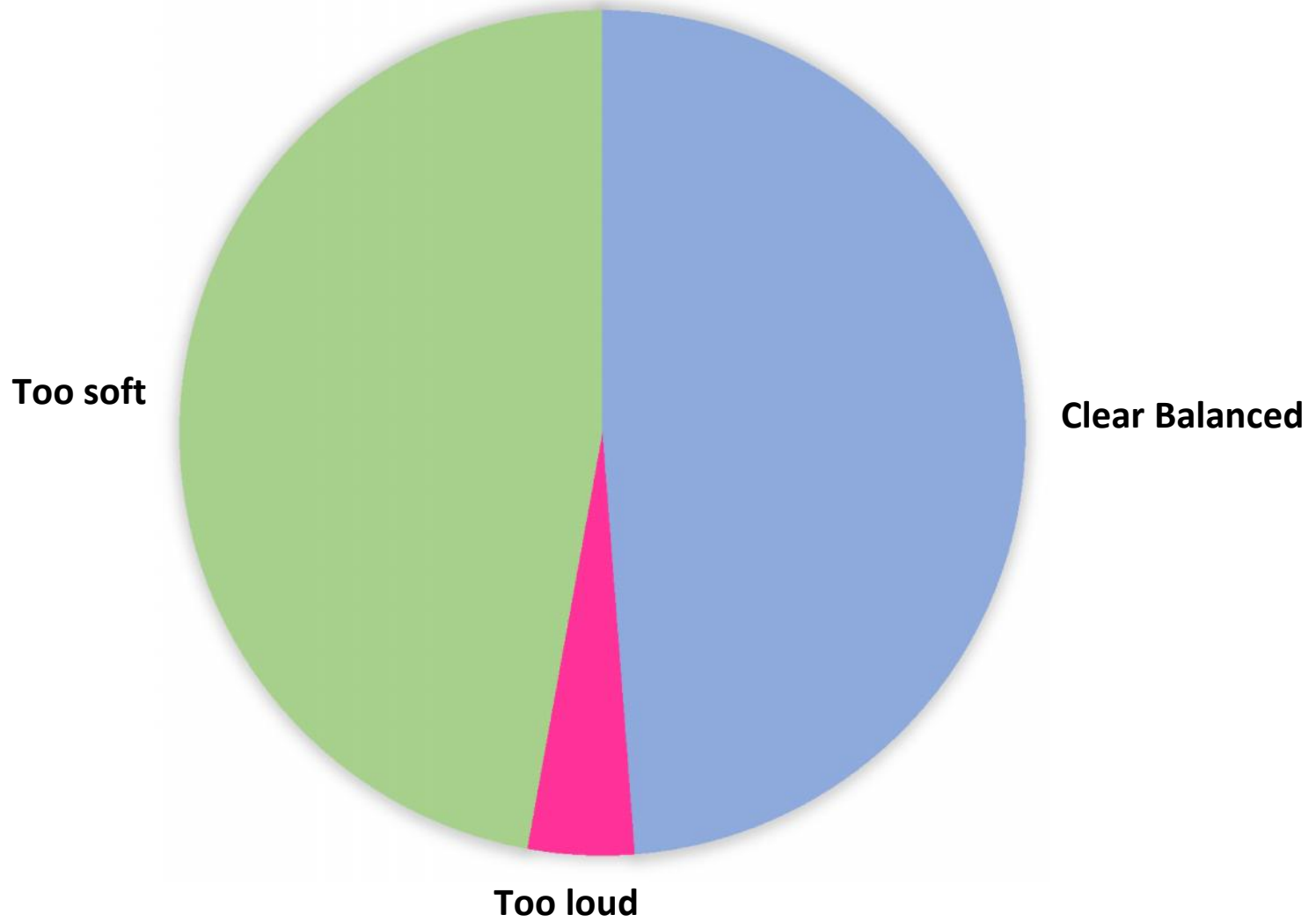


# Orchestral Soloist Clarity by Seating Area

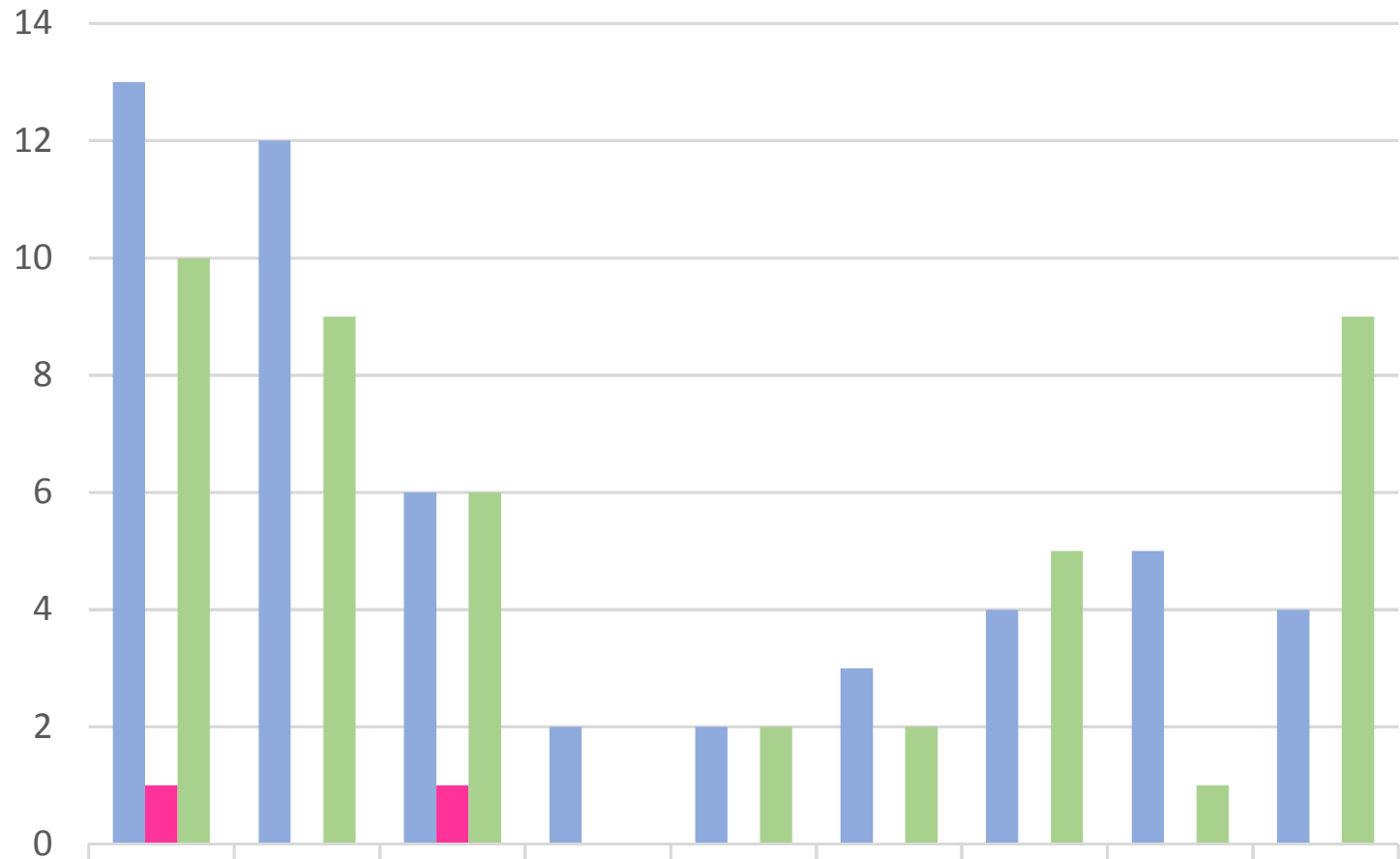


	MF front	MF middle	MF rear	T1 box	T1 rear	T2 box	T2 rear	T3 box	T3 rear
Clear	26	20	13	2	4	4	10	4	10
Too loud	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
Too soft	9	5	4	2	0	2	1	3	2

# GUEST SOLOIST CLARITY - AGGREGATE



## Guest Soloist Clarity by Seating Area



■ Clear Balanced

■ Too loud

■ Too soft

MF  
front

MF  
middle

MF rear

T1 box

T1 rear

T2 box

T2 rear

T3 box

T3 rear

13

12

6

2

2

3

4

5

4

1

0

1

0

0

0

0

0

0

10

9

6

0

2

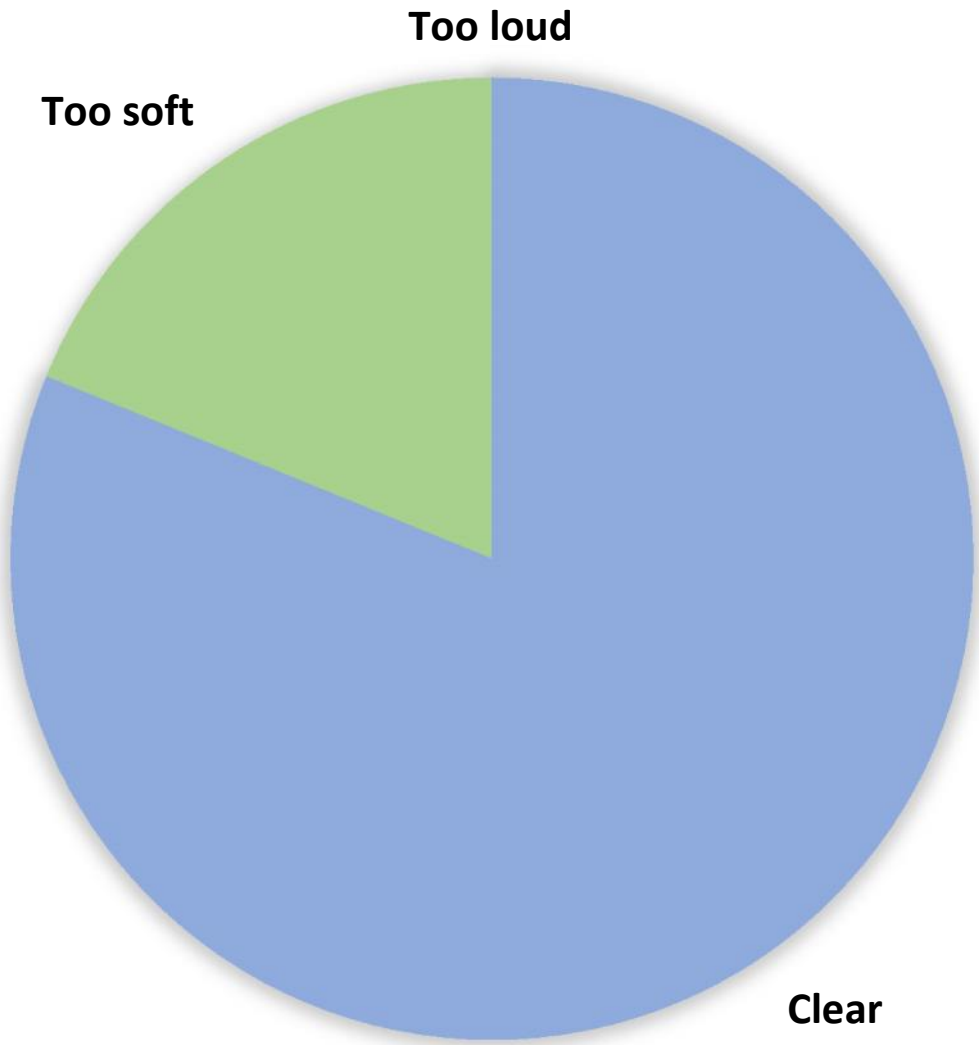
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5

1

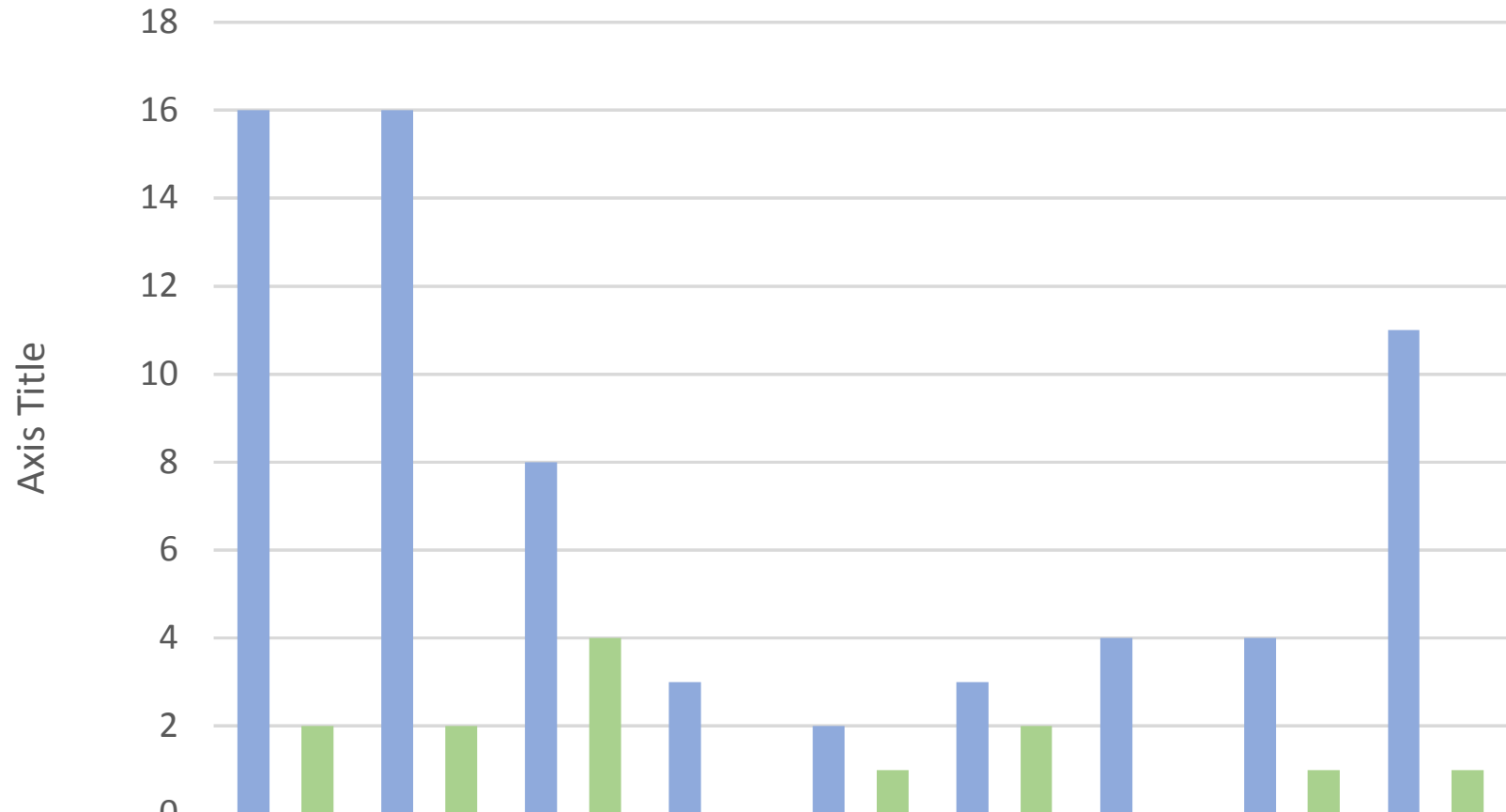
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# SPEECH CLARITY - AGGREGATE



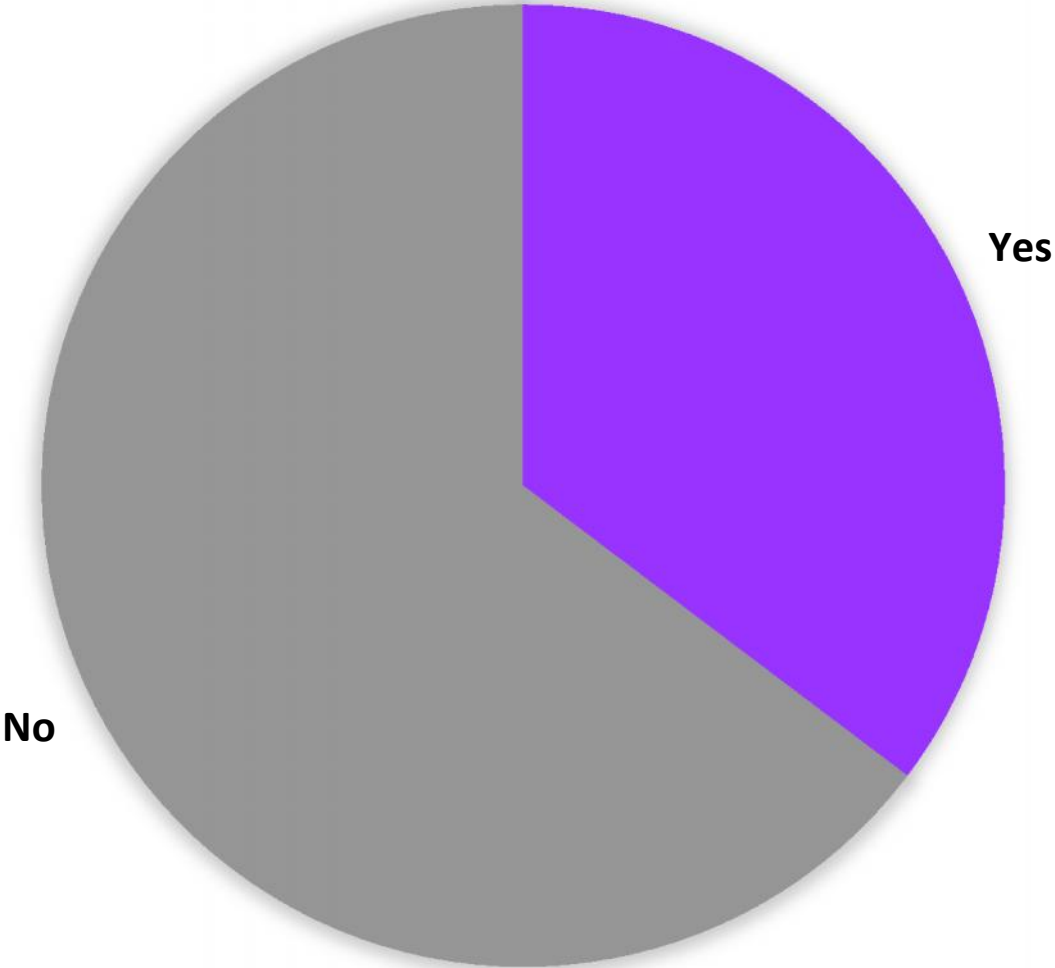


## Speech Clarity by Seating Area

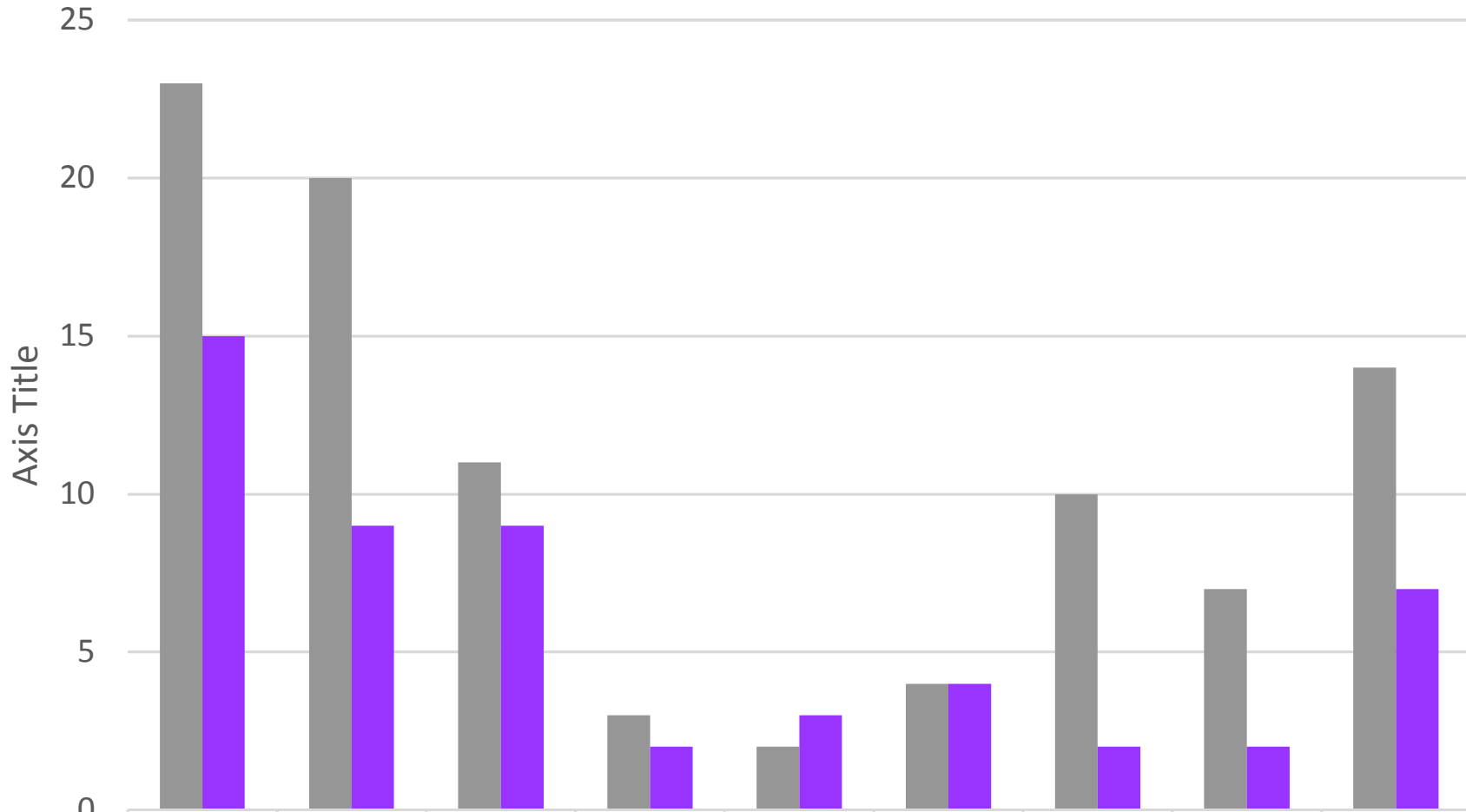


	MF front	MF middle	MF rear	T1 box	T1 rear	T2 box	T2 rear	T3 box	T3 rear
Clear	16	16	8	3	2	3	4	4	11
Too loud	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Too soft	2	2	4	0	1	2	0	1	1

# AMBIENT NOISE - AGGREGATE



## Ambient Noise by Seating Area



	MF front	MF middle	MF rear	T1 box	T1 rear	T2 box	T2 rear	T3 box	T3 rear
■ No	23	20	11	3	2	4	10	7	14
■ Yes	15	9	9	2	3	4	2	2	7

Location	Orchestra Clarity Comments
MF front	Basses and cello dominated-we were sitting in row 6 by them
MF front	Brass and basses were WAY TO SHRILL AND LOUD
MF front	Brass is very harsh and loud
MF front	Brass sounds farther away/quieter relative to the rest of the group than before renovation
MF front	Brass way too loud- also an echo- strings somewhat muddy
MF front	Brass way too loud- also an echo- strings somewhat muddy
MF front	Curiously, Steven Isserlis was audible to us, but we seemed to hear him because we sat so close, not because the hall was carrying his sound.
MF front	Due to my closeness to the stage, instruments further upstage were projecting over my head.
MF front	heard echo and brass too loud.Strings did not sound as clear as they had before this redo--almost muddy.
MF front	I could hear the violins slightly better than other instruments, mostly because I was sitting right in front of them
MF front	I was hearing individual musicians more than a "blend" of the instruments
MF front	Lots of buzzing - sound muddy. It was better the previous weeks heard from the rear balcony.
MF front	Really excellent sound. Far enough back to have the sound mesh into a coherent image without being too close for balance. Yet the physical presence of the instruments was palpable. Sitting in this area is what makes the listener truly able to hear into the quality of each player.
MF front	sat on right side facing stage - cello and bass was very present
MF front	sound cohesion improved over prev. weeks, even in 12th row.
MF front	Still a little violin dominant, but better than earlier concerts.
MF front	The balance was good considering how close I was to the stage
MF front	The Bass strings seemed louder than usual, but we were near them on the right side of the main floor.
MF front	The over all sound lacked cohesion, a cohesion that it DID have in the old hall and at Ted Mann. Brass and woodwinds seemed less present.
MF front	This is to be expected, I was sitting right in front of the violins
MF front	Way too much violin...sounding rather shrill.
MF middle	Brass and flutes shrill and too loud. Strings soft and not balanced with rest of orchestra
MF middle	brass at times seemed too loud, overpowered the cello...
MF middle	Brass might have been slightly bright, but not overly so.
MF middle	Brass was really loud.
MF middle	High and low notes came through, overpowering the middle voices.
MF middle	It sounded like an unmixed recording. The bass was muddy and dull, the middle was completely lost and the treble was a little shrill.
MF middle	not sure. try to send survey out sooner.
MF middle	overall sound too bright for my taste; violins better defined tho;orch sound not well blended, but other reasons for that
MF middle	Poor conductor
MF middle	Seemed to be a "dead" area of sound from the instruments in the semi-circle around the conductor
MF middle	The brass overplayed the strings
MF middle	The louder the violins played the less I could hear them. Strange feeling.
MF middle	The louder the violins played the less I could hear them. Strange feeling.
MF middle	The strings were warm, but a little undefined in some instances. I was in direct alignment with Steve Campbell and his tuba seemed a little overpowering at times. He's played at my church and am familiar with his playing. It could have been my location. The brass seemed quite strong for the Holst. Excited to be back playing together perhaps?
MF middle	The top end sounded clipped, but I heard Skrowy wanted it toned down. The middle and bottom tones were just fine.
MF middle	Violins were harsh. Flutes got caught in a resonance. Trompets not warm
MF middle	Would like to have heard the strings be a little "fuller".
MF rear	brass seemed very forward
MF rear	Brass were bright
MF rear	Dry or as if a film separated us
MF rear	Horns audible only when they were really loud, then stridently brassy
MF rear	I simply could scarcely hear anything. It was as if I was sitting in a distant room, far away from what was actually happening. It was horrible.
MF rear	It wasn't the full sound, one breath, same pause, all the time, but none-the-less, so wonderful to hear.
MF rear	Lots of upper voices
MF rear	Oboe resonant, brass dry and strings weak esp cellos
MF rear	orchestra overpowered Iserlis' cello; brass seemed over much (but sounded great!)
MF rear	Sometimes difficult to hear clarity of low strings
MF rear	Strings just don't sound clear anymore. Muffled? They just don't carry.
MF rear	The sound lacked clarity.

Location	Orchestra Clarity Comments
MF rear	The strings were not as vibrant as I remember. The basses were too overbearing.
MF rear	The winds and brass were too clear but lacked warmth. Overall, the hall reminded me more of the Ordway than the old hall. The strings completely lacked the vibrancy of old. Very disappointing!
T1 box	Strings seemed too quite relative to rest of orchestra, however, very few stands of violins that night.
T1 box	The brass was out of ballance with the strings in Don Juan.
T1 rear	As opposed to the first week when we were 10th row, dead center main floor, the sound in the 1st balcony is well balanced, with good definition, but several degrees less impactful. I suppose this is an inevitable result of increased distance from musicians to audience.
T1 rear	Brass seemed to be quite prominent. Strings were not as full sounding as I am used to hearing.
T1 rear	Isserlis cello sounded very dampened
T1 rear	The upper instruments (strings, winds, horns) were pretty high in the mix while the lows were not as clearly represented.
T2 box	At the climax of Mars it was as if an amp had been turned too high for the speakers,
T2 box	Bright, one dimensional and no bass resonance
T2 box	High pitches seem much louder than before.
T2 box	Upper strings not as full. Winds, especially flutes not projecting as well as remembered.
T2 rear	Brass and piccolo were too bright
T2 rear	Sound here was definitely better than on right side of hall where we had sat for previous concerts. the string section sounded clear, beautiful and much more akin to their sound last year. But the pianist was completely drowned out in the first movement of the Rach II
T2 rear	Sounds were reverberating in my right ear due to the overhang of the third balcony. I'll never sit there again!
T2 rear	The orchestra sounds muffled and muted, as if a pillow hung over the stage. Too much mid-range (viola, horn) and not enough upper and lower.
T2 rear	The winds are not heard as clearly or loudly as before the renovation
T3 box	Bass was muffled, clarinets were over-projected
T3 box	Brass seemed louder but I think it was the nature of the piece and not just acoustics
T3 box	Brass seemed quite loud
T3 box	Sound was similar to pre-renovation from these seats.
T3 box	the sound seemed louder and rather strident compared with the sound I remember from this seat pre-renovation.
T3 rear	From that spot, the bass seemed very heavy, often overpowering the middle and even higher registers
T3 rear	From this spot it sounded like the bass was muffled, and the strings were overpowered by the winds (very different from my experience sitting on the other side of the third tier for other concerts this month)
T3 rear	percussion and brass sounded like they were right next to me while the strings were muffled.
T3 rear	Solo cello often overwhelmed by the orchestra; brass very loud
T3 rear	The hall seems to be favoring the winds over the strings causing some balance problems
T3 rear	The orchestra used to sound wonderful in the third tier, but now it sounds muted and muddy.
T3 rear	The orchestra was mostly well-balanced, but the horn section was a bit too brilliant/brassy in delicate sections.
T3 rear	The strings definitely did not have their usual huge full sound, especially the violins. At times I did think the basses sounded a little "muddy". The ensemble playing was very good and crisp. The soloist at times could not be heard at all. Overall, I would say "Not awful but needs improvement including warming up the sound" The warmth was always in the playing before. I want it to come back.
#N/A	It's very dry, and not much sound comes back to accurately assess how the balance is in real time.
#N/A	Music had winds playing quite softly at times, so balance might have been great, just much softer in general.
#N/A	Violins over dominated the sound

Location	Orchestra Soloist Comments
MF front	Brass loud
MF front	Brass loud
MF front	Cellos and bass were perhaps a bit soft.
MF front	First violin a bit soft but still lovely.
MF front	Lots of solos, particularly in Bolero, and they all were clear.
MF front	Mostly clear, but as said in #3, brass sounds farther away/quieter than prior to renovation
MF front	Orchestra too loud at the beginning of the soloist (probably the problem with the conductor).
MF middle	Can people really hear and remember well enough to honestly answer questions like these?
MF middle	Depends on the instrument, but I was generally unhappy with the balance
MF middle	Flutes and brass too loud
MF middle	I could hardly hear the violin in Don Juan
MF middle	more cello...but that 's personal..!
MF middle	OK
MF rear	Again, as if through a film
MF rear	As long as they were the only ones playing I could hear them.
MF rear	Horn solos barely audible
MF rear	I could hear things from the side of the orchestra that was directly in front of us -- doublebass, tuba and tympani.
MF rear	Oboe nice
MF rear	Some woodwind solos in The Planets were a little too loud, but the cello solo had a perfect volume.
MF rear	Woodwind solos seemed more shrill than I remember. In the piano concerto, the piano ff chords easily covered the string melody. One could hear the string melody but it seemed to have much less presence than the piano
MF rear	woodwinds too soft
T1 rear	Dampened although the clarinets sounded more shrill
T1 rear	When answering this question,, one has to keep in mind that the musician and the conductor have the primary control over soloist/ensemble balance. With that caveat, I thought solos were well balanced.
T2 box	Concertmaster solos audible but bright.
T2 box	Too clear
T2 rear	I struggled to hear the upper range of violins and also the resonance of cellos and basses.
T2 rear	Often the orchestra was too loud to hear the pianist.
T2 rear	Some of the wind instruments sounded just plain strange in first part of Bolero.
T2 rear	The winds specifically . Horns and trumpets are almost too loud
T3 box	I am convinced that because of where I sat the acoustics were terrible. I was in the 3rd tier side boxes and the brass just drowned out everything else. Especially in the Elgar Cello Concerto.
T3 rear	Clarinet solo was a bit soft, but it may just be that I'm used to hearing a different soloist in Burt Hara.
T3 rear	Depends on the instrument; see #3
T3 rear	the string solos sounded muffled, as if they were playing with mutes
T3 rear	Within the orchestra itself, there has been some stand out solo work--especially the oboe. My comment applies to the cello concerto.

Location	Guest Soloist Comments
MF front	Again, could not hear at times when playing with orchestra.
MF front	And sounded very well when playing alone
MF front	At times though hall was hushed we simply could not hear Isserlis. Have heard him before with SPCO and he does have ability to play loudly if needed, but he was way too soft throughout, even though Elgar piece does require much pianissimo.
MF front	Buzzy. Couldn't always hear the piano at all. Frustrating.
MF front	He didnt seem to project very well
MF front	The pianissimos were lost
MF front	The piano solo (Rachmaninoff) was very muddy sounding - I was struck by it immediately - the notes just ran together so much you couldn't distinguish what was being played. It seemed a little better when the orchestra was also playing, but then the orchestra was often overpowering the sound of the piano. In contrast though, when I heard Steven Isserlis perform the cello concerto (I was one row back that night in row 3, seat 15), the solo sound was much better.
MF front	There were times when on the pianissimos I couldn't hear him at all.
MF middle	At times the orchestra was too loud, drowning out the soloist.
MF middle	Cellist uses gut strings, which needed to be amplified to create greater balance between the soloist and orchestra.
MF middle	could hardly hear when playing with orchestra
MF middle	During soft sections the ventilation fan sound drown out some of the music.
MF middle	Excellent registry!!
MF middle	His playing is so wonderfulbut got lost at times in the orchestra sound, esp. brasses, also I couldn't catch ANY nuances of his playing... :(
MF middle	In spite of giving his absolute best, the soloist was covered by the orchestra. This is squarely the fault of the conductor, who ought to balance the two better.
MF middle	Issuer lies was too soft. Or orchestra too loud.
MF middle	Orchestra often over powered piano. Another couple at same performance heard a well balanced sound. They sat near front of a tier at the back of the hall.
MF middle	piano was hard to hear over the orchestra during fuller orchestral passages
MF middle	Sounded fine
MF middle	Very difficult to hear the pianist while the orchestra played.
MF middle	Very difficult to hear the pianist while the orchestra played.
MF rear	As above
MF rear	Cello soloist did not project well
MF rear	Could barely hear the cello
MF rear	Had to strain to try and hear the soloist.
MF rear	I would qualify this as slightly too soft....might have been the artist's choice for this, too.
MF rear	It was so soft and indistinct that it felt like I was sitting in another room, listening through a closed door. It was horrible.
MF rear	See above
MF rear	Tragically, the conductor was a DISASTER.
MF rear	With this piece, there are always moments when it is hard to hear the soloist.
MF rear	Yes! Never covered by orchestra.
T1 box	I could not hear piano well at very beginning of the concerto- orchestra too loud?- over all they were balanced
T1 rear	During solo/orch tutti, the soloist was virtually not heard
T1 rear	Very hard to hear
T1 rear	We had a hard time hearing the cello.
T2 box	Isserlis's sound did not carry well
T2 box	Occasionally covered up a little by the orchestra
T2 rear	Could hardly hear him over the orchestra.
T2 rear	From where I was sitting, when the orchestra was playing above mf, the piano soloist got lost in the sound.
T2 rear	Occasionally too soft.
T2 rear	Thepiano was completely drwoned out by the orchestra in the first movement of the Rach II. But the next 2 movements were better though orchestra still too loud for the most part. Encore was clear and sounded wonderful.
T2 rear	Too quiet at times compared to the orchestra. I would liked to have heard the soloist better.
T3 box	A bit soft in the first movement, clear thereafter
T3 box	Sometimes the orchestra was a bit loud over the piano
T3 box	The few balance problems were not due to hall acoustics.
T3 box	The very beginning of the Elgar Concerto was 1) not together & 2) couldn't hear the soloist at all. After a few minutes this improved.
T3 rear	Bravo Daniil Trifonov! Bring him back, please! Acoustics from solo piano were great.
T3 rear	I could see that Steven Isserlis was playing intensely, but I could barely hear him.
T3 rear	Quieter than usual, but Isserlis plays on gut strings.

Location	Guest Soloist Comments
T3 rear	Trifinov did not project above the orchestra in both soft and loud passages. There was little sense of immediacy or presence to the soloist's sound.
#N/A	I heard from different patrons after the concert mixed reviews on balance based on where they were sitting.
#N/A	Often completely obliterated by the orchestra.
#N/A	Sounded a bit muddled at times from our seats.



Location	Speech Comments
MF front	Michael Barone was at times difficult to understand (enunciation more than sound level)
MF front	Mr. Wright, as a musician, was more comfortable with using his mic. Mr. Sprenger took a bit to feel comfortable speaking up, however, that is no reflection of the audio system.
MF front	There was a very bad echo bouncing back from the rear of the hall, especially on consonants
MF front	They were on stage to our left with Mike- clear
MF front	They were on stage to our left with Mike- clear
MF front	Things were clear when the microphone was being used; when it was not, the sound of individual voices did not carry well, even just 5-6 rows from the front!
MF front	We could hear S Isserlis speak quite clearly.
MF middle	muffled
MF middle	Other: most remarks were made using the hand mic.
MF middle	There weren't any remarks...
MF rear	a bit muddy
MF rear	But, really, the chairman of the board was pathetic. Has he never spoken in front of an audience before?
MF rear	I could hear, but they seemed garbled so I couldn't understand, except for Betsy Hodges, who came through clearly.
MF rear	I could not understand what the soloist said when he addressed the audience.
MF rear	Isserlis didn't speak up enough at times, but otherwise we could hear.
MF rear	The "new" sound system is a joke. Obviously a budget system!
T1 rear	Mr. Sprenger forgot to speak directly into the mic during his remarks.
T2 box	Remarks were miked.
T3 box	or I just dont remember

Location	Ambient Noise Comments
MF front	At first I thought it was the sound of sirens outside the hall, and then I thought an instrument was continuing to play, but then I realized the HVAC system was making the sound - an actual pitch. Also lots of squeaking from the chairs in the tiers.
MF front	Heard rushing of air during a lot of the concert. Some musicians were looking up at the sound with frustrated looks on their faces.
MF front	HVAC noise and buzzing lighting.
MF front	HVAC, although less than in previous weeks
MF front	It seems like there was almost a buzz that seemed to be coming from what I assume are the vents.
MF front	Kind of a buzz...some kind of noise coming from what I guess are the vents
MF front	Odd sound near the left side of the stage as audience faces it (so stage right, I suppose), sort of whirring or humming; an audience services person said it was the wind from an outer door (??)
MF front	One concert I attended has crackle coming from the ceiling speakers. At another concert I was able to hear a quiet hum from somewhere.
MF front	The HVAC system was inexplicably quite loud at times, ruining some of the pianissimo musical moments
MF front	There was a blowing sound from the heating system that never used to be there in previous years
MF front	There was a strange whirring sound when the orchestra was not playing.
MF front	There were a few times that there were loud humming sounds that seemed to be coming from the hallway
MF front	very loud and distracting "wind tunnel" to the left. so loud i couldn't hear the orchestra when they were playing softly
MF front	YES!!! Major problem that must be addressed - the chairs in the tiers (and those that are moveable on the main floor) MUST have some kind of felt footing attached to stop the scraping noise they make when people move them during performance - in all 3 concerts I've attended the sound of chairs moving has been very noticeable during the music - at least 4 occasions during the cello concerto alone - so distracting! Also, the sound of the HVAC is definitely noticeable when the music is quiet or ending - I absolutely notice the sound of the fan running.
MF middle	"Whooshing" air noise from HVAC.
MF middle	A little, but I was listening for it from the prior experience
MF middle	HVAC fan noise very bothersome during soft passages.
MF middle	HVAC system roaring
MF middle	I think it is the ventilation fan and it is very noticeable during periods of the music.
MF middle	I was aware of the HVAC in moments of silence, but given our winter, I'll settle for heat!
MF middle	It sounds like there's a wind tunnel stage right
MF middle	Seemed to hear a faint hissing noise above me.
MF middle	Some howling wind sounds.
MF middle	The HVAC system was SO loud and very much distracted from the performance
MF middle	There is a fan blowing in the ceiling somewhere which I have never heard before—and I have been attending Orchestra Hall concerts since 1974.
MF middle	There was a sucking or hissing noise that appeared coming from the rear exit doors
MF rear	A weird hum of a fan or wind? Only when it was really quiet in the hall
MF rear	Fans along the side were extremely loud to the point they were distracting the musicians!
MF rear	heating system. But it was way too hot and uncomfortable
MF rear	Hissing at the doors. Sounded like wind.
MF rear	HVAC was noisy and at times distracting
MF rear	I could barely hear the pp snare drum opening of the Bolero because of rather noticeable HVAC noise emanating from the left rear corner of the hall. It was very disturbing to the performance.
MF rear	I wasn't paying attention to this -- too busy trying to hear the music.
MF rear	people talking behind us
MF rear	Some wooshing from the heating system at the rear of the hall. Might be objectionable for people way in the back.
MF rear	There seemed to be a whistling/air moving sound that was very distracting during soft passages.
MF rear	There was a high pitched sound that was very annoying. Several of us heard it. Wondered if it was coming from the hallway or if it was a hearing aid.
MF rear	There was a howling wind sound that was very annoying.
MF rear	There was an occasional buzzing sound that came from our left. It was only near the end of the first half. We were seated in the left rear section of the main floor (when facing the stage).
MF rear	ventilation wheezing off and on, also during concert of 2/15
MF rear	Was aware of air conditioning noise in left rear
MF rear	Whistling sound from upstairs or ventilation
MF rear	Whooshing of the HVAC.
T1 box	As was true in the previous hall, there is a constant fan noise (very soft) that is noticeable during soft passages.
T1 box	Sound of air from heating system (sounded like it was coming from the back and upper part of the hall) was evident during quiet parts of pieces. This was evident in the "old" hall too.
T1 rear	Constant whooshing sound like air rushing through cracks in a door left ajar
T1 rear	HVAC and buzzing lights

Location	Ambient Noise Comments
T1 rear	Ventilation system made loud blowing and whistling sounds. I could hardly hear the beginning of the Ravel, and it also disrupted the Rachmaninov. Several patrons were laughing because the sound was so loud.
T2 box	"Whooshing" air noise from HVAC.
T2 box	During very soft passages, some consistent, subtle but audible, smooth sounds from heating vents ?, in ceiling area ?
T2 box	During very soft passages, some consistent, subtle but audible, smooth sounds from heating vents ?, in ceiling area ?
T2 box	I heard a bit of what I thought might be HVAC fans, but not any worse than pre-renovation
T2 rear	Extremely loud noise from the ventilation system. I could hear what sounded like blowing wind as well as a pitch. I was aware of other audience members turning their heads towards the sound as we all tried to figure out where it was coming from. It was extremely disruptive to my ability to enjoy the concert.
T2 rear	Very loud noise from ventilation system. It was so loud that I could not hear the beginning of the Ravel, and I saw other patrons turning their heads and laughing because it was so ludicrously loud. It sounded windy, and I could also hear a pitch within the sound. Extremely disruptive.
T3 box	Heating ducts sounded, chairs squeaked on stage when moved
T3 box	Whirring/roaring noise from HVAC in quiet moments - very distracting
T3 rear	Both nights I've been there has been a persistent high pitched whining sound. It's very distracting during quieter moments of pieces. This issue seriously needs to be addressed as it does impact my listening experience
T3 rear	Both nights I've been there has been a persistent high pitched whining sound. It's very distracting during quieter moments of pieces. This issue seriously needs to be addressed as it does impact my listening experience.
T3 rear	Could hear how systems turned on and off.
T3 rear	HVAC roaring
T3 rear	I could hear people talking out in the hallway near my seat
T3 rear	I hear some rumbling but tried not to pay attention to it. I was more bothered by the bright lights shining in my eyes in tier 3 for the first concert.
T3 rear	Nothing structural, but I'll say that coughers and program rattlers are the bane of my enjoyment of live orchestral music. I wish that the audience could be held to a higher standard of quiet.
T3 rear	Perhaps a door was accidentally left open
#N/A	It sounded like an outside door was cracked open, creating a "wind tunnel" sound effect. Most noticeable at the beginning of Bolero

Location	Same Location Pre- and Post-Renovation
MF front	I think the sound is brighter and I could hear the different instruments more distinctly. I liked it
MF front	I've had front and center seats for years and have never heard any rushing of air like I did at this concert.
MF front	Major differences that I've noticed in our seats are the brass sounding quieter and how unbelievably muddy-sounding the solo piano was.
MF front	No
MF front	No HVAC sound before, the sound was well balanced, cohesive, brass were present and powerful when they needed to be. Not anymore.
MF front	none
MF front	Not recently enough to give a valid comparison
MF front	Often did enough to hear difference. Definitely not balanced - brass way too loud and had never heard echo in past.
MF front	Often did enough to hear difference. Definitely not balanced - brass way too loud and had never heard echo in past.
MF front	Previous weeks' sound from the rear balcony was clearer than before the renovation. The main floor sound was very muddy compared to prior to renovation.
MF front	Sorry, I can't remember.
MF front	Sound seems less balanced than before
MF front	We usually try to sit on the LEFT side of the main floor (not the right) and a bit further back, so acoustical differences are hard to assess.
MF front	Wind rushing through doors
MF middle	Better before renovation
MF middle	Can't say there were any
MF middle	I am so disappointed in the new acoustics, it is difficult for me to keep going to the hall. The lush sound of the violins is gone. It doesn't matter how loud they play...the louder they play, the less I hear.
MF middle	I am so disappointed in the new acoustics, it is difficult for me to keep going to the hall. The lush sound of the violins is gone. It doesn't matter how loud they play...the louder they play, the less I hear.
MF middle	I recall the piano sounding louder and clearer
MF middle	It's been so long since I've been to hear the orchestra. I just figured that I need to try another location and see if the balance might be a bit better more towards the center. Most of the brass played for me during the lock-out and I guess I was more keenly aware of their sonority. 25 years ago I used to sit on stage with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Philharmonic as part of the Westminster Choir, so I always had a good seat to hear the entire orchestra. I may have been too low at Orchestra Hall to get the conductor's point of hearing and overall ensemble?
MF middle	No fan sound.
MF middle	None noticed
MF middle	Prior seating was slightly forward but no ambient noise was noticed at that time.
MF middle	The bass is tighter. The Q of the hall has been lowered. The violins are now harsh, and there seems to be a 1.5 KHZ to 2.5Khz catching the violins flutes and brass. This might have been masked by the previous over resonant acoustic. I suspect however that new surfaces are to blame.
MF middle	The orchestra was better balanced prior to renovation.
MF middle	The vibrancy of the sound in the semi-circle surrounding the conductor.
MF middle	There was a more even balance between orchestra and the soloist
MF rear	Honestly, none. I was told by MO musicians that the hall was drier now, but I don't think so!
MF rear	HUGE acoustical differences!! I never had this experience of simply not being able to hear.
MF rear	I really didn't notice a difference other than the audience seemed more engaged with the music and the orchestra.
MF rear	In the past I was always impressed with the clarity of sound and could feel the music at any location.
MF rear	never heard this before
MF rear	none
MF rear	Seems just a bit louder and brighter.
MF rear	Strings just don't carry, they used to be so wonderfully clear.
MF rear	The volume of the sound, in general, seemed quieter than I would have liked, as though a bit distant.
MF rear	There is MUCH less reverberation. The acoustics have been tampered with to a disturbing degree. A hall once known for a vibrant, exciting sound is little better than the Ordway now. It seems that there was too much effort made to make our fine acoustic hall into a venue more suitable for amplified concerts.
MF rear	We enjoyed our old seats. The sides aren't our favorite place.
T1 box	Difficult to assess after only one concert
T1 box	Sat in same area
T1 rear	Brass seemed to "pop out" more now. Strings seem a bit muddied, not as "crisp".
T1 rear	I have never been aware of ventilation system noise before.
T1 rear	Not as bright and clear a sound. More muddled
T1 rear	Not as much bloom in the sound and the resonance of the orchestra is less. Sounds like some people are working to be heard when that should not be the case. (Bassoons/tuba/basses)
T1 rear	Probably about the same, possibly a bit better. Didn't like the ambient mechanical noise
T2 box	Brighter high ranges.

Location	Same Location Pre- and Post-Renovation
T2 box	In same seats before, did not notice the ?ventilation sounds during silent passages.
T2 box	In same seats, I do not recall the above noted ventilation (?) sounds.
T2 box	Much brighter, less depth and much less bass. Crass when loud
T2 box	Slightly less brass reverberation from back of the hall, ie a favorable change.
T2 box	The sound is not as warm and string sound is thinner. I know this may be in part because of so many ringers which was inevitable because of the horrific situation.
T2 box	The sound was better. Not as much high-end bouncing around. Orchestral sound was solid top to bottom and balanced. Brass can still cover the strings out but they will have to work harder to do so now.
T2 rear	Sat mostly in Tier 2 in years past. Orchestra then sounded more balanced, especially winds, not so soft, and brass not so loud.
T2 rear	When the tutti orchestra is at their loudest volume, the volume in the audience feels like about 65%.
T2 rear	Winds and strings not as clear as before. Trumpets and horns are loud.
T3 box	bass felt more muffled and the woodwinds were jagged in balance - not blended well. Probably orchestra, not hall (first concert back, after all). Somewhat brighter than before, with less bloom to the sound (drier). I'd prefer about 25% less dry.
T3 box	From an acoustical standpoint, there was very little difference in sound from the 3rd tier balcony on stage right overlooking the orchestra. Differences in sound of the orchestra were due more to differences in personnel pre and post renovation.
T3 box	I noticed no acoustical differences. We sit in the front row of the first box on the third tier right side. We chose those seats because of the excellent sound quality there.
T3 box	In the past always sat on right side and in second box - maybe explain why brass seemed louder. though they are on the right side - they face toward the left.
T3 box	No appreciable difference
T3 box	No difference.
T3 box	No differences noted.
T3 box	The sound seemed louder and quite strident compared to my memory of this seat, which I like quite a lot for the view of the players and conductor.
T3 box	This is our location since sometime in the 80s. We consider these to be the best seats in the house acoustically, but sight lines may be a bit different thanks to the new baffles (or memory is fuzzy).
T3 rear	bass seemed relatively weak
T3 rear	Better definition.
T3 rear	I didn't notice much acoustical difference in the rear, aside from the orchestra itself having a different sound without Maestro Vanska, and with many stand-ins.
T3 rear	I felt that the bass was heavier than before. There was less blending in the sound, but that might be because the orchestra is not full yet, and because they haven't adjusted to the new acoustics.
T3 rear	I felt that the strings sound muffled. Their sound does not carry clear and true now. The balance between the brass and the strings is off. The strings can't play loud enough to be really heard.
T3 rear	n/a
T3 rear	Prior to renovation, OH had a wonderful combination of envelopment and clarity. I didn't get the sense of envelopment, especially on the Planets that I remember.
T3 rear	prior to the renovation acoustics were always perfect, in the last two concerts with soloists- they were hard to hear at many points.
T3 rear	small ensemble playing was good. I think there is less warmth in the overall sound of the whole orchestra.
T3 rear	sounded pretty much the same as before
T3 rear	The sound was less balanced than I remember from my previous experiences in the 3rd balcony, and there seemed to be some slight delays/out-of-synch, especially in the lower voices.
T3 rear	we always sit in the same 3rd floor rear area and have never had trouble before hearing the soloists until this concert

Location	Other Comments
MF front	Both times I have sat on the sides once in the front left once in the back third right I heard that same weird noise from what I assume are the vents.
MF front	Can't help but presume that the renovators presumed that they were expecting amplified sound to be the norm, since amplified speech was the only way to hear things, even from close up.
MF front	Hall balance very important. Strings did not sound nearly as clear on this side. Vanska equally important. Please hire back!!
MF front	Hall balance very important. Strings did not sound nearly as clear on this side. Vanska equally important. Please hire back!!
MF front	How can there be problems with HVAC noise in a concert hall after a \$50 million renovation? Infuriating!
MF front	I sat way up on the third balcony for the first concert back and heard everything really well.
MF front	I still think too much sound, esp, that of soloists, is going up over this section of seats.
MF front	I wish people didn't cough.
MF front	It feels like the seats are a bit bigger, a plus. I suppose the loge seating at row 13 is good for handicapped, however, it obscures sightlines for several rows behind.
MF front	It was also wickedly hot
MF front	Lobby now has a less open, colder quality.
MF front	My comment has to do less with the HVAC system than with what I heard that night musically. I have never heard the orchestra and soloist so out of synch before in my life. If you think that the audience is going to keep accepting cheap conductors and not notice a difference, you are 100% wrong. Please bring Osmo Vanska back to bring a solid base to this orchestra. And fix the air noise, for Christ's sake there have been months where this problem could have been fixed. Why has our fine orchestra turned into such a shoddy operation?
MF front	Orchestra Hall looks bland, cold, and lifeless.
MF front	Please fix the feet on the movable chairs with felt or wool! I can't believe that was not taken into account!
MF front	Seems like the hall itself needed a dress rehearsal with HVAC and acoustics technicians in attendance.
MF front	Some coat lockers did not work properly.
MF front	The gunmetal gray paint on the tiers is hideous. It looks like they hung the hall with gun boats.
MF front	The hall acoustics are so v important, much much more so than lobby. We hope they get it right. We also hope Osmo Vanska is hired back and v soon. We are waiting.
MF front	very disappointed in the lack of renovation or even coat of paint in the ladies restroom to the left. it looks like an old high school restroom with broken locks and peeling paint. it looks dumpy.
MF front	waiting to sit in my usual left back third main floor seat before finally deciding. but 3rd balcony chorus was lovely.
MF front	We heard some static apparently from an open mike during the last Thursday coffee concert. We are in a different area but still in the front 3rd. I don't know why there should be any difference since little has changed. I have heard nothing from anyone that the acoustics have changed. Same ceiling, same back
MF middle	altho pretty, i think the colors of stage lighting on back wall do not mesh well with wood. they are cool and wood is warm. also the color used for extensions onto stage and rest of hall is too dark and stand out too much.
MF middle	Beautiful additions throughout!! So very good to be back in the Hall...now, bring back Vanska!!!
MF middle	brightness of sound less pleasing than before. final judgement waits more full complement of orig.players.trumpets a bit more tamped dwn-a plus
MF middle	Have heard a variety of complaints about softness of soloist, and the HVAC noise.
MF middle	I just thought it was because they hadn't been playing together for so long and that t will improve - not sure if that is true or if it is the hall...
MF middle	I really wanted to like the renovation, despite everything, but it was not executed well. Too many corners were cut making it seem cheap and corporate. The lobby does look good from the outside and the appearance of the hall itself is improved, but it's a disappointment over all.
MF middle	I sat in the center section in the row just behind the cross-aisle. They were effectively partial view/obstructed view because of the accessible seating in the cross-aisle. The level crossing negates the raked floor and site lines are disrupted.
MF middle	It is frankly hard to sort acoustics from the downgrade in the sound of the orchestra. The orchestra is a far cry from what it was. The violins in particular are rough. It seems to me this orchestra needs a lot of work. I have listened to the BIS SACDs, and I have them all. I can listen in 5 channel the way the disc should be listened to. I can recreate orchestra hall and the sound of the orchestra almost exactly. I'm sorry to say things have slipped a lot, and really need taking in hand.
MF middle	Overall, very pleased
MF middle	Seats much improved.
MF middle	The change in the pitch in the floor makes a difference in the site lines. The chairs in row 13 block the view in rows 14 and 15. Of the remaining concerts we have, we have 2 concerts in row 16 and 1 concert in row 24. I hope we'll be able to see better in row 16. The sound was fine....the site lines...not as good.

Location	Other Comments
MF middle	The strings (particularly the violins) had a nice sound, but I wondered if they were a little less in number and thus not as full sounding as they could be? Our hall has been known to favour the bass frequencies, but I didn't get that from the Double Basses. Again, fewer players? The one or two pedal tones from the organ did seem adequate, given it's electronic limitations.
MF middle	The whole color scheme and feel of the new hall, both lobby and the hall itself, is cold and uninviting compared to the former hall, which felt like a comfortable place to hear music instead of like a skyway or a warehouse.
MF middle	Why was it necessary to hang the obnoxious speakers from the ceiling? Why were they necessary in a venue with such brilliant acoustics?
MF rear	Beautiful changes and amenities!! Sooo good to be back...bring back Vanska...!
MF rear	Bring back Osmo. He will make them fix this. Maybe that is what MOA is afraid of.
MF rear	I couldn't help but presume that the acoustics were so very bad because the intention of the renovation had less to do with acoustics from "acoustic" instruments, and more about being able to handle things with amplification. I will certainly never sit in this area again if I'm there to hear music.
MF rear	I felt removed from the concert that night. More like watching tv than the vital aliveness I have come to love in orchestra hall.
MF rear	I for one have no confidence that this whole lockout is "over" until the person responsible (Hanson?) is gone. He is a sour, unsmiling person who seems to think the orchestra belongs to him. I will buy only tickets to concerts until that man is gone. And bring back Osmo!
MF rear	I think it was a mistake getting rid the back wall on the main floor, i.e. the wall immediately behind the last row. It muffled noise behind it and was a sounding board for the music. A sound booth for classical concerts? This does not make sense.
MF rear	I was not at an orchestra concert, but at the All-State Choir concert on Feb. 15th.
MF rear	In general, the sound was more balanced and round at the back than at the other concerts when I sat main floor, 15 rows or less from the front.
MF rear	Lobby is still crowded with no clear 'flow'. Backstage area wasn't touched. Really? (Choir rehearsal / storage room remains a disgrace!)
MF rear	Not as resonant
MF rear	Seats are less comfortable, room was stifling. I'd rather start off cooler and let the room warm with more people than feel like it's unbearably hot.
MF rear	Thanks for asking.
MF rear	The conductor really was awful.
MF rear	The prices are quite high for limited incomes.
MF rear	To me, it's improved, and it was already good. No complaints.
MF rear	Ventilation noise was very apparent during quiet passages.
MF rear	We were sitting in the back next to the sound people and I found the lights distracting
MF rear	What a cold and uninviting lobby. Don't they know that snow and slush are tracked in by the audience? Very slippery surfaces throughout.
MF rear	Why is Michael Henson still on the payroll, and leading the administration? He nearly ruined everything, received bonuses during the lockout, and yet there he still is. I can't imagine anyone trusting him to do anything but additional harm. Get rid of him!
T1 box	Hall seems to be in good acoustic shape. It think the added bevels (think that's what they're called) near the stage may help the orchestra players hear themselves. I sang on that stage in the past and it was very hard to hear the other singers and orchestra players so hope this improves that situation.
T1 box	In general the acoustics are so live that care needs to be taken with balance. The listening experience can approach brutality if the brass and percussion are too loud. My favorite location is 3rd tier close to the stage. The sound has a chance to mix by the time it reaches that distance but is much clearer than a seat in the back of the hall.
T1 box	To my ear, which isn't the most discriminating, the sound is excellent.
T1 rear	I had not noticed HVAC sound, but have heard that it bothered other patrons.
T1 rear	Need more ushers checking in concert goers
T1 rear	So happy to have the orchestra back playing in Orchestra Hall!
T1 rear	Sounds like the total reverb has diminished about 15%.
T1 rear	The ventilation system was louder than the orchestra at times! It was a constant irritation and frustration!! When you are paying \$\$\$ for tickets, you at least want to hear what you are paying for.
T2 box	I will be sitting in a couple other spots in March, but so far I think the acoustics are better. Some of the previously excess high end seems to be absorbed in the stagebox and the room
T2 box	Isserlis and the orchestra were frequently out of balance (orchestra too loud), and from where I sat sounded out-of-synch at times. Friends sitting near the front did not notice the same issues, they said on the main floor it was fine.
T2 box	Overall, acoustics remain alive and glorious.
T2 box	Overall, acoustics remain great.
T2 box	Overall, acoustics remain great.
T2 box	Please restore to the way it was

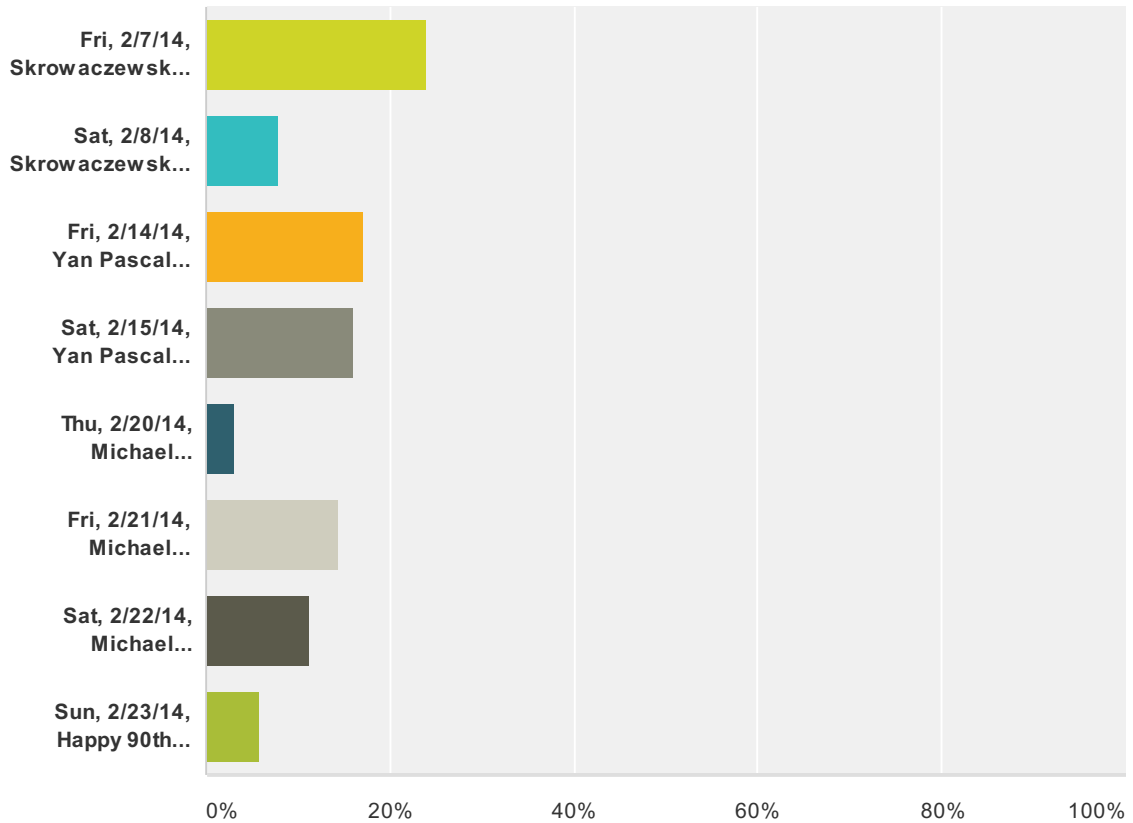


Location	Other Comments
T2 box	With more than a third of the orchestra filled out by ringers it is not at this point the old Minnesota Orchestra.
T2 rear	Generally quite good. I also talked to an orchestra member and asked him what he thought of the acoustics as a player on the stage. He was positive.
T2 rear	I desperately miss the acoustics of the hall pre-lockout. I'm terribly upset that the musicians' instrument has been tampered with.
T2 rear	I don't know how much of problems I heard is this current orchestra and how much is sound but I do know that with Osmo back we would all be happier. Please hire him back.
T2 rear	It seemed like noise from the audience was louder. I felt like I heard everything- unwrapper of cough drops, turning of programs, etc. I did not remember this from before.
T3 box	Any sound differences for me were more likely related to the decimation of the orchestra thanks to the lockout. Unfortunately we still have the same old uncomfortable seats we inherited from the first tier when it got upgraded seats years ago. The only real improvement I see from this expensive renovation is better traffic flow.
T3 box	I will be attending the March 14th concert again in the third tier, but this time in the center rear of the tier. I am hoping that I will hear a better balance than before as when I was in the box on the side.
T3 box	Not an acoustical issue but annoying: There are still boxes of construction debris in the hallway of the third tier balcony next to section A that have been there since the hall reopened. It would take about five minutes to clear it away, but it sits there week after week.
T3 box	Renovated lobby area now has an industrial character.
T3 box	The lockers in the hallway malfunction and had to ask for assistance from one of the ushers to help close and then re-open the lockers. Surely, after the extensive renovation attention should have been given to the lockers. And please, terminate Michael Hansen and bring back Osmo Vanska.
T3 box	We need Vanska back!!!!
T3 box	We were underwhelmed by the renovation. Perhaps the traffic flow is better but there are fewer places to sit during intermission. Also, we have the same old pink uncomfortable chairs in our box.
T3 box	When are they going to change the chairs on the 3rd floor tiers to match the rest of the hall? Why no chairs in the lounge areas on the 2nd and 2nd tiers. People there need to sit too. They have chairs on the main floor.
T3 rear	Figure out how to tame the spotlights in tier 3. I understand that the lack of full sound might have to do with so many regular performers not playing. But I think there is room for improvement.
T3 rear	How could all this money be spent making the rows closer to each other than before? At the intermission I went and say on the side partial view because my knees were at my chin. Disability access is poor.
T3 rear	I sat in the same area for the concern on Feb 22, and had the same experience. At one point the timpani (playing quietly) overpowered everyone else (at that place it was mostly mid-range instruments, also playing quietly).
T3 rear	In the past coming to a classical concert at Orchestra Hall was a physical experience of a wonderful bath in sound, now the experience seems more removed, like I am listening on the radio.
T3 rear	Lobbies very cold, as awkward as they were before the renovation
T3 rear	Regarding ambient noise - I noticed many children under the age of 15 in my section during the 2/22 Saturday night concert. There were 3 directly behind me and 2 directly next to me. The 2 next to me were well behaved, but the 3 boys behind me were awful! Stomping feet during the performance (out of boredom), talking, loudly drinking sodas... It was extremely distracting, and we moved away from them into empty seats for the second half. They were "shushed" more than once by other patrons. Isn't there a minimum age for attendance? Will you please start enforcing it? We are regular subscribers, and those kids ruined the first half of the concert for us. Thanks.
T3 rear	See comment for question 7. Very important issue!
T3 rear	See comment for question 7. Very important issue!
T3 rear	The blue-gray color should have either been blue or gray. It's blue with the lights on and gray with the lights down. A strange effect.
T3 rear	The chorus came through just beautifully in The Planets, but they were right behind me!
#N/A	I have never had a chance to attend a concert. I support the orchestra and the players. The Minn Orch has a great history and should have a great future. ATB Bob Maher
#N/A	I sat in the last seat on the left side, about halfway back. I thought the acoustics were excellent, and even mentioned this to my companion.
#N/A	I think a shell of some sort behind the orchestra, or tiered riser seating for the strings would help the balance/blend issues.
#N/A	I'm going to try a seat further back in the future. I think much of the sound may be going over this section of seats.



## Q1 Which concert does your feedback relate to?

Answered: 187 Skipped: 3

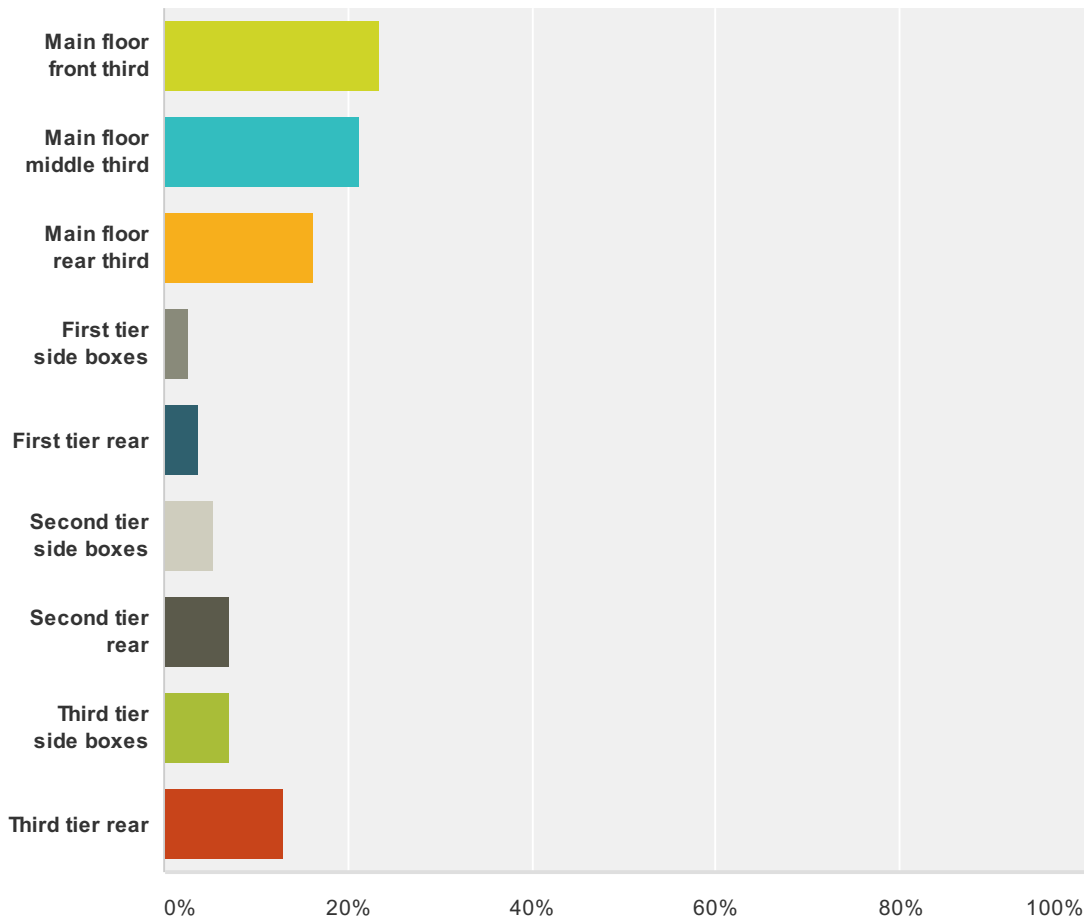


Answer Choices	Responses
Fri, 2/7/14, Skrowaczewski, Beethoven's 3rd, Bach Toccata & Fugue, Don Juan	24.06% 45
Sat, 2/8/14, Skrowaczewski, Beethoven's 3rd, Bach Toccata & Fugue, Don Juan	8.02% 15
Fri, 2/14/14, Yan Pascal Tortelier & Steven Isserlis, The Planets, Elgar concerto	17.11% 32
Sat, 2/15/14, Yan Pascal Tortelier & Steven Isserlis, The Planets, Elgar concerto	16.04% 30
Thu, 2/20/14, Michael Christie, Daniil Trifonov, Rachmaninoff concerto, Firebird, Bolero	3.21% 6
Fri, 2/21/14, Michael Christie, Daniil Trifonov, Rachmaninoff concerto, Firebird, Bolero	14.44% 27
Sat, 2/22/14, Michael Christie, Daniil Trifonov, Rachmaninoff concerto, Firebird, Bolero	11.23% 21
Sun, 2/23/14, Happy 90th Maestro Stan Celebration	5.88% 11
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>

# Orchestra Hall Acoustics

## Q2 Where did you sit?

Answered: 184 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses
Main floor front third	23.37% 43
Main floor middle third	21.20% 39
Main floor rear third	16.30% 30
First tier side boxes	2.72% 5
First tier rear	3.80% 7
Second tier side boxes	5.43% 10
Second tier rear	7.07% 13
Third tier side boxes	7.07% 13
Third tier rear	13.04% 24
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>

#	Seat# or other clarification (optional)	Date
1	side, house right	3/3/2014 1:42 AM
2	On the side aisle on the left side as you look at the stage.	3/2/2014 5:09 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

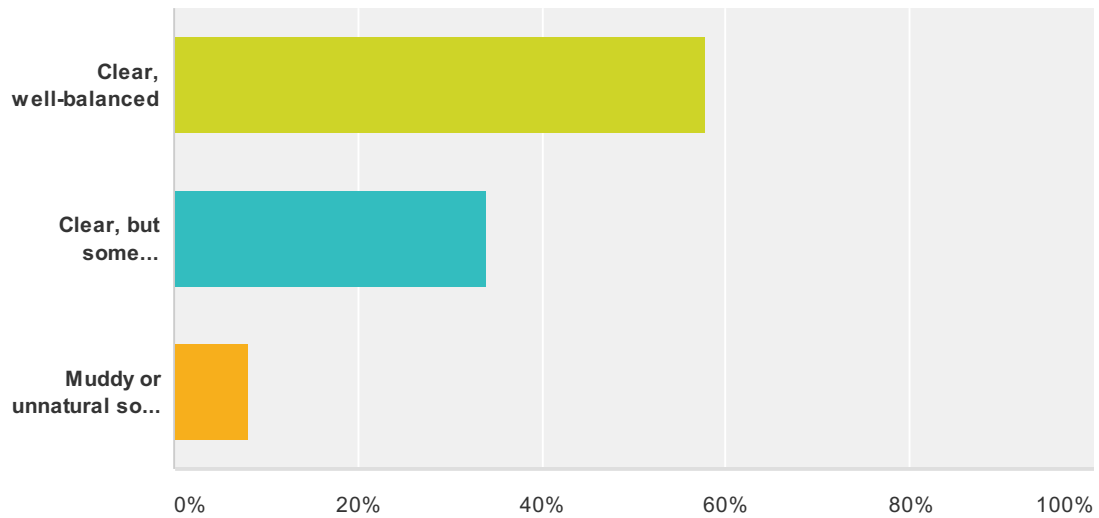
3	A section, seats 1-4	3/2/2014 1:25 PM
4	Center 1/2 back	3/2/2014 9:59 AM
5	Left side near the back 3rd seat in	3/2/2014 9:55 AM
6	In the orchestra	3/1/2014 1:45 PM
7	about row 20, 1st seat on left center aisle	2/28/2014 11:30 PM
8	row 2 seats 1 & 2	2/28/2014 7:37 PM
9	5th row	2/28/2014 3:30 PM
10	2nd to last row	2/28/2014 11:24 AM
11	first seat from the stage	2/28/2014 11:12 AM
12	Balcony B, seats, 27, 28	2/28/2014 9:08 AM
13	First Row of the main floor	2/28/2014 8:50 AM
14	maybe 5-6 rows from the front, just right of center	2/27/2014 10:19 PM
15	Stage Left Row 14 Seats 33 & 34	2/27/2014 9:38 PM
16	Row 8, seats 27 & 28	2/27/2014 8:56 PM
17	Balcony B rear, Row 1, #5 & #6	2/27/2014 4:28 PM
18	center	2/27/2014 2:39 PM
19	Right tier A Row 1 seats 12-13	2/27/2014 2:09 PM
20	4 A left	2/27/2014 1:56 PM
21	Near the rear.	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
22	Row 20 seats 17 and 18	2/27/2014 1:35 PM
23	1st row, first seat on left and 5th seat on left.	2/27/2014 1:33 PM
24	Near Door C	2/27/2014 1:29 PM
25	On right side, about row 7, 6 seats in to right.	2/27/2014 1:25 PM
26	Right side 3-4 th seat in about row 10(80.00 seat)	2/27/2014 1:15 PM
27	Right side 3-4 th seat in about row 10(80.00 seat)	2/27/2014 12:44 PM
28	Row 27, 6th seat from left wall	2/27/2014 12:34 PM
29	Row 21, left aisle	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
30	Left side of hall, about a third of the way in from the doors.	2/27/2014 12:20 PM
31	Stage Left	2/27/2014 12:05 PM
32	Box B row B seat 3	2/27/2014 11:54 AM
33	Row 12, Seat 9	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
34	row 20, seat 25	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
35	Row 10, Seat 21	2/27/2014 11:40 AM
36	Row 13 center	2/27/2014 11:38 AM
37	center, 3rd row	2/27/2014 11:28 AM
38	audience left, row 19 #34	2/27/2014 11:26 AM
39	audience right, second row from back	2/27/2014 11:25 AM
40	box 1, row 1 (closest to the stage, audience left)	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
41	Row 1, I think 70	2/27/2014 11:18 AM
42	row 15, seats 25 and 26 for both 2/8 and 2/15	2/27/2014 11:18 AM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

43	row 2, seat 15	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
44	left side as you face the stage	2/27/2014 11:05 AM
45	Row 9, seat 7 & 8	2/27/2014 10:59 AM
46	secoond row dead center	2/27/2014 10:55 AM
47	10th row dead center	2/27/2014 10:48 AM
48	Row 22, Seat 16	2/27/2014 10:37 AM
49	Row 10 center section	2/27/2014 10:35 AM
50	Door G Row 4 Seat 4	2/27/2014 10:30 AM
51	row 4 somewhere on the left side facing the stage.	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
52	third tiier, rear, middle section toward the right-side aisle	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
53	Row 1, seats 3,4	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
54	third tier rear, left (from the perspective of facing the stage)	2/27/2014 10:22 AM
55	3rd row	2/27/2014 10:17 AM
56	Left side, front fow	2/27/2014 10:09 AM

## Q3 How did the orchestra sound?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Clear, well-balanced	57.84% 107
Clear, but some instruments were louder than others (please describe in comments)	34.05% 63
Muddy or unnatural sound (please describe in comments)	8.11% 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>

#	Comments (optional)	Date
1	Violins were harsh. Flutes got caught in a resonance. Trompets not warm	3/3/2014 8:33 AM
2	Sound was similar to pre-renovation from these seats.	3/2/2014 1:25 PM
3	Brass and flutes shrill and too loud. Strings soft and not balanced with rest of orchestra	3/2/2014 11:36 AM
4	The strings were not as vibrant as I remember. The basses were too overbearing.	3/2/2014 10:48 AM
5	Oboe resonant, brass dry and strings weak esp cellos	3/2/2014 7:05 AM
6	Sounds were reverberating in my right ear due to the overhang of the third balcony. I'll never sit there again!	3/2/2014 12:38 AM
7	The top end sounded clipped, but I heard Skrowy wanted it toned down. The middle and bottom tones were just fine.	3/2/2014 12:34 AM
8	The sound lacked clarity.	3/1/2014 4:25 PM
9	Brass were bright	3/1/2014 3:16 PM
10	It's very dry, and not much sound comes back to accurately assess how the balance is in real time.	3/1/2014 1:45 PM
11	High pitches seem much louder than before.	3/1/2014 11:42 AM
12	The upper instruments (strings, winds, horns) were pretty high in the mix while the lows were not as clearly represented.	3/1/2014 11:18 AM
13	sat on right side facing stage - cello and bass was very present	3/1/2014 10:31 AM
14	Bright, one dimensional and no bass resonance	3/1/2014 10:31 AM
15	orchestra overpowered Iserlis' cello; brass seemed over much (but sounded great!)	3/1/2014 8:26 AM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

16	not sure. try to send survey out sooner.	2/28/2014 11:30 PM
17	The balance was good considering how close I was to the stage	2/28/2014 7:37 PM
18	The winds and brass were too clear but lacked warmth. Overall, the hall reminded me more of the Ordway than the old hall. The strings completely lacked the vibrancy of old. Very disappointing!	2/28/2014 6:40 PM
19	the sound seemed louder and rather strident compared with the sound I remember from this seat pre-renovation.	2/28/2014 11:12 AM
20	Seemed to be a "dead" area of sound from the instruments in the semi-circle around the conductor	2/28/2014 9:49 AM
21	Music had winds playing quite softly at times, so balance might have been great, just much softer in general.	2/28/2014 9:08 AM
22	I could hear the violins slightly better than other instruments, mostly because I was sitting right in front of them	2/28/2014 8:50 AM
23	Dry or as if a film separated us	2/28/2014 6:16 AM
24	I simply could scarcely hear anything. It was as if I was sitting in a distant room, far away from what was actually happening. It was horrible.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM
25	The strings were warm, but a little undefined in some instances. I was in direct alignment with Steve Campbell and his tuba seemed a little overpowering at times. He's played at my church and am familiar with his playing. It could have been my location. The brass seemed quite strong for the Holst. Excited to be back playing together perhaps?	2/27/2014 9:38 PM
26	The Bass strings seemed louder than usual, but we were near them on the right side of the main floor.	2/27/2014 8:56 PM
27	The orchestra used to sound wonderful in the third tier, but now it sounds muted and muddy.	2/27/2014 6:43 PM
28	Lots of buzzing - sound muddy. It was better the previous weeks heard from the rear balcony.	2/27/2014 5:52 PM
29	brass at times seemed too loud, overpowered the cello...	2/27/2014 5:41 PM
30	At the climax of Mars it was as if an amp had been turned too high for the speakers,	2/27/2014 4:56 PM
31	It wasn't the full sound, one breath, same pause, all the time, but none-the-less, so wonderful to hear.	2/27/2014 4:33 PM
32	The louder the violins played the less I could hear them. Strange feeling.	2/27/2014 4:05 PM
33	The louder the violins played the less I could hear them. Strange feeling.	2/27/2014 4:05 PM
34	The winds are not heard as clearly or loudly as before the renovation	2/27/2014 4:03 PM
35	Strings just don't sound clear anymore. Muffled? They just don't carry.	2/27/2014 4:00 PM
36	percussion and brass sounded like they were right next to me while the strings were muffled.	2/27/2014 3:54 PM
37	Brass seemed quite loud	2/27/2014 2:47 PM
38	Curiously, Steven Isserlis was audible to us, but we seemed to hear him because we sat so close, not because the hall was carrying his sound.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
39	sound cohesion improved over prev. weeks, even in 12th row.	2/27/2014 2:39 PM
40	overall sound too bright for my taste; violins better defined tho; orch sound not well blended, but other reasons for that	2/27/2014 2:35 PM
41	The strings definitely did not have their usual huge full sound, especially the violins. At times I did think the basses sounded a little "muddy". The ensemble playing was very good and crisp. The soloist at times could not be heard at all. Overall, I would say "Not awful but needs improvement including warming up the sound" The warmth was always in the playing before. I want it to come back	2/27/2014 2:33 PM
42	Strings seemed too quite relative to rest of orchestra, however, very few stands of violins that night.	2/27/2014 2:09 PM
43	Brass seemed louder but I think it was the nature of the piece and not just acoustics	2/27/2014 1:56 PM
44	Sometimes difficult to hear clarity of low strings	2/27/2014 1:44 PM
45	Brass was really loud.	2/27/2014 1:41 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

46	Upper strings not as full. Winds, especially flutes not projecting as well as remembered.	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
47	Horns audible only when they were really loud, then stridently brassy	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
48	The orchestra sounds muffled and muted, as if a pillow hung over the stage. Too much mid-range (viola, horn) and not enough upper and lower.	2/27/2014 1:36 PM
49	Sound here was definitely better than on right side of hall where we had sat for previous concerts. the string section sounded clear, beautiful and much more akin to their sound last year. But the pianist was completely drowned out in the first movement of the Rach II	2/27/2014 1:33 PM
50	heard echo and brass too loud. Strings did not sound as clear as they had before this redo--almost muddy.	2/27/2014 1:25 PM
51	Basses and celli dominated-we were sitting in row 6 by them	2/27/2014 1:24 PM
52	Brass way too loud- also an echo- strings somewhat muddy	2/27/2014 1:15 PM
53	brass seemed very forward	2/27/2014 1:07 PM
54	Brass way too loud- also an echo- strings somewhat muddy	2/27/2014 12:44 PM
55	The over all sound lacked cohesion, a cohesion that it DID have in the old hall and at Ted Mann. Brass and woodwinds seemed less present.	2/27/2014 12:43 PM
56	The brass was out of ballance with the strings in Don Juan.	2/27/2014 12:38 PM
57	Isserlis cello sounded very dampened	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
58	Brass might have been slightly bright, but not overly so.	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
59	Still a little violin dominant, but better than earier concerts.	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
60	The brass overplayed the strings	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
61	Way too much violin...sounding rather shrill.	2/27/2014 11:40 AM
62	Violins over dominated the sound	2/27/2014 11:38 AM
63	Due to my closeness to the stage, instruments further upstage were projecting over my head.	2/27/2014 11:28 AM
64	Poor conductor	2/27/2014 11:26 AM
65	The orchestra was mostly well-balanced, but the horn section was a bit too brilliant/brassy in delicate sections.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
66	Bass was muffled, clarinets were over-projected	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
67	Brass is very harsh and loud	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
68	It sounded like an unmixed recording. The bass was muddy and dull, the middle was completely lost and the treble was a little shrill.	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
69	Solo cello often overwhelmed by the orchestra; brass very loud	2/27/2014 11:17 AM
70	Lots of upper voices	2/27/2014 11:16 AM
71	Brass and basses were WAY TO SHRILL AND LOUD	2/27/2014 11:16 AM
72	Brass sounds farther away/quieter relative to the rest of the group than before renovation	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
73	Brass and piccolo were too bright	2/27/2014 10:59 AM
74	As opposed to the first week when we were 10th row, dead center main floor, the sound in the 1st balcony is well balanced, with good definition, but several degrees less impactful. I suppose this is an inevitable result of increased distance from musicians to audience.	2/27/2014 10:55 AM
75	Really excellent sound. Far enough back to have the sound mesh into a coherent image without being too close for balance. Yet the physical presence of the instruments was palpable. Sitting in this area is what makes the listener truely able to hear into the quality of each player.	2/27/2014 10:48 AM
76	Would like to have heard the strings be a little "fuller".	2/27/2014 10:37 AM
77	Brass seemed to be quite prominent. Strings were not as full sounding as I am used to hearing.	2/27/2014 10:30 AM
78	The hall seems to be favoring the winds over the strings causing some balance problems	2/27/2014 10:26 AM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

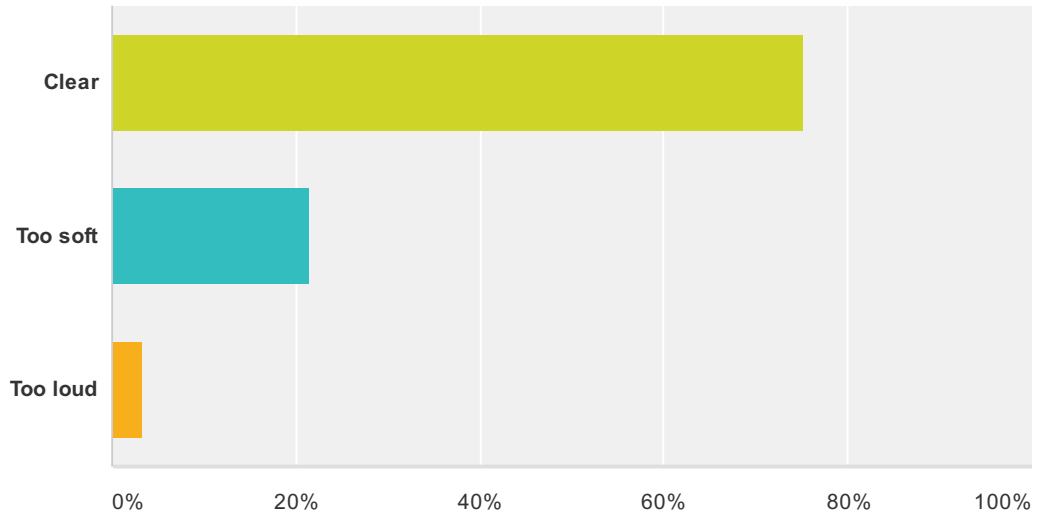
79	From this spot it sounded like the bass was muffled, and the strings were overpowered by the winds (very different from my experience sitting on the other side of the third tier for other concerts this month)	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
80	From that spot, the bass seemed very heavy, often overpowering the middle and even higher registers	2/27/2014 10:22 AM
81	I was hearing individual musicians more than a "blend" of the instruments	2/27/2014 10:17 AM
82	High and low notes came through, overpowering the middle voices.	2/27/2014 10:10 AM
83	This is to be expected, I was sitting right in front of the violins	2/27/2014 10:09 AM



# Orchestra Hall Acoustics

## Q4 How did solos from within the orchestra sound? Feel free to add specific observations in the comments.

Answered: 177 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses
Clear	75.14% 133
Too soft	21.47% 38
Too loud	3.39% 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>

#	Comments (optional)	Date
1	Flutes and brass too loud	3/3/2014 8:33 AM
2	Can people really hear and remember well enough to honestly answer questions like these?	3/3/2014 1:42 AM
3	more cello...but that 's personal..!	3/2/2014 9:59 AM
4	Oboe nice	3/2/2014 7:05 AM
5	Often the orchestra was too loud to hear the pianist.	3/2/2014 12:38 AM
6	Too clear	3/1/2014 10:31 AM
7	Woodwind solos seemed more shrill than I remember. In the piano concerto, the piano ff chords easily covered the string melody. One could hear the string melody but it seemed to have much less presence than the piano	2/28/2014 6:40 PM
8	Again, as if through a film	2/28/2014 6:16 AM
9	I could hear things from the side of the orchestra that was directly in front of us -- doublebass, tuba and tympani.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM
10	Lots of solos, particularly in Bolero, and they all were clear.	2/27/2014 8:56 PM
11	OK	2/27/2014 5:41 PM
12	Some woodwind solos in The Planets were a little too loud, but the cello solo had a perfect volume.	2/27/2014 5:22 PM
13	The winds specifically . Horns and trumpets are almost too loud	2/27/2014 4:03 PM

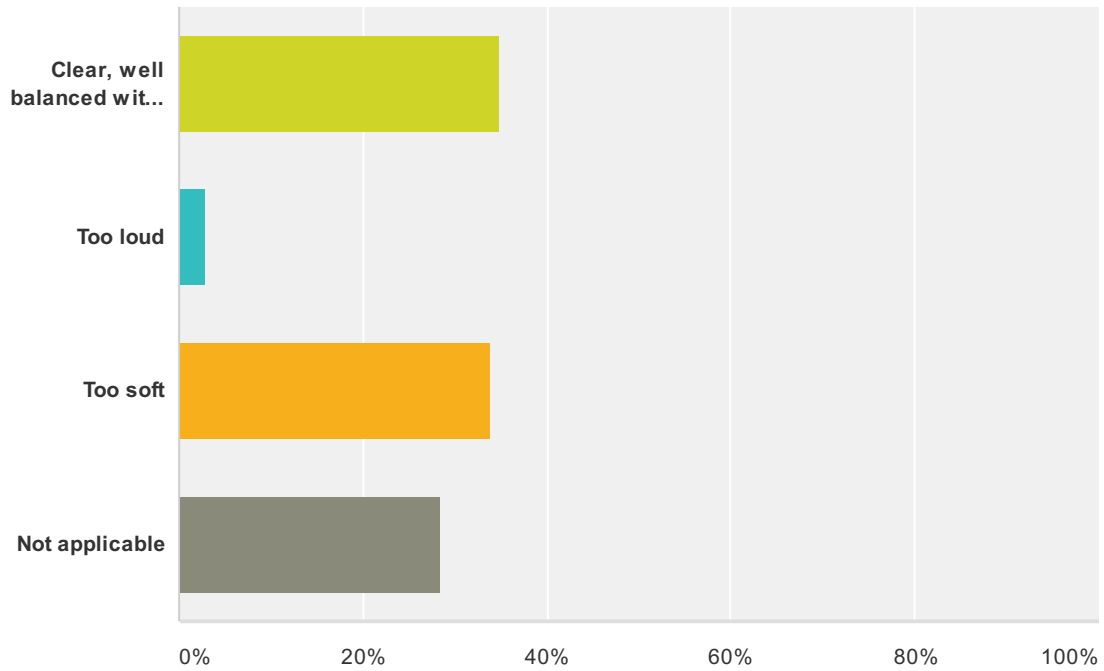
## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

14	As long as they were the only ones playing I could hear them.	2/27/2014 4:00 PM
15	Cellos and bass were perhaps a bit soft.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
16	I am convinced that because of where I sat the acoustics were terrible. I was in the 3rd tier side boxes and the brass just drowned out everything else. Especially in the Elgar Cello Concerto.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
17	Within the orchestra itself, there has been some stand out solo work—especially the oboe. My comment applies to the cello concerto.	2/27/2014 2:33 PM
18	Hom solos barely audible	2/27/2014 1:44 PM
19	Concertmaster solos audible but bright.	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
20	woodwinds too soft	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
21	I struggled to hear the upper range of violins and also the resonance of cellos and basses.	2/27/2014 1:36 PM
22	Some of the wind instruments sounded just plain strange in first part of Bolero.	2/27/2014 1:33 PM
23	First violin a bit soft but still lovely.	2/27/2014 1:25 PM
24	Brass loud	2/27/2014 1:15 PM
25	Brass loud	2/27/2014 12:44 PM
26	Dampened although the clarinets sounded more shrill	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
27	I could hardly hear the violin in Don Juan	2/27/2014 12:05 PM
28	Clarinet solo was a bit soft, but it may just be that I'm used to hearing a different soloist in Burt Hara.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
29	Depends on the instrument, but I was generally unhappy with the balance	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
30	Depends on the instrument; see #3	2/27/2014 11:17 AM
31	Mostly clear, but as said in #3, brass sounds farther away/quieter than prior to renovation	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
32	Orchestra too loud at the beginning of the soloist (probably the problem with the conductor).	2/27/2014 10:59 AM
33	When answering this question,, one has to keep in mind that the musician and the conductor have the primary control over soloist/ensemble balance. With that caveat, I thought solos were well balanced.	2/27/2014 10:55 AM
34	the string solos sounded muffled, as if they were playing with mutes	2/27/2014 10:25 AM

# Orchestra Hall Acoustics

## Q5 How did the guest soloist (if any) sound?

Answered: 172 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses
Clear, well balanced with the orchestra	34.88% 60
Too loud	2.91% 5
Too soft	33.72% 58
Not applicable	28.49% 49
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>

#	Comments (optional)	Date
1	Sounded fine	3/3/2014 8:33 AM
2	Orchestra often over powered piano. Another couple at same performance heard a well balanced sound. They sat near front of a tier at the back of the hall.	3/2/2014 5:09 PM
3	The few balance problems were not due to hall acoustics.	3/2/2014 1:25 PM
4	Tragically, the conductor was a DISASTER.	3/2/2014 10:48 AM
5	Excellent registry!!	3/2/2014 9:59 AM
6	Too quiet at times compared to the orchestra. I would liked to have heard the soloist better.	3/2/2014 12:38 AM
7	Issuer lies was too soft. Or orchestra too loud.	3/2/2014 12:36 AM
8	I heard from different patrons after the concert mixed reviews on balance based on where they were sitting.	3/1/2014 1:45 PM
9	During solo/orch tutti, the soloist was virtually not heard	3/1/2014 11:18 AM
10	could hardly hear when playing with orchestra	2/28/2014 11:30 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

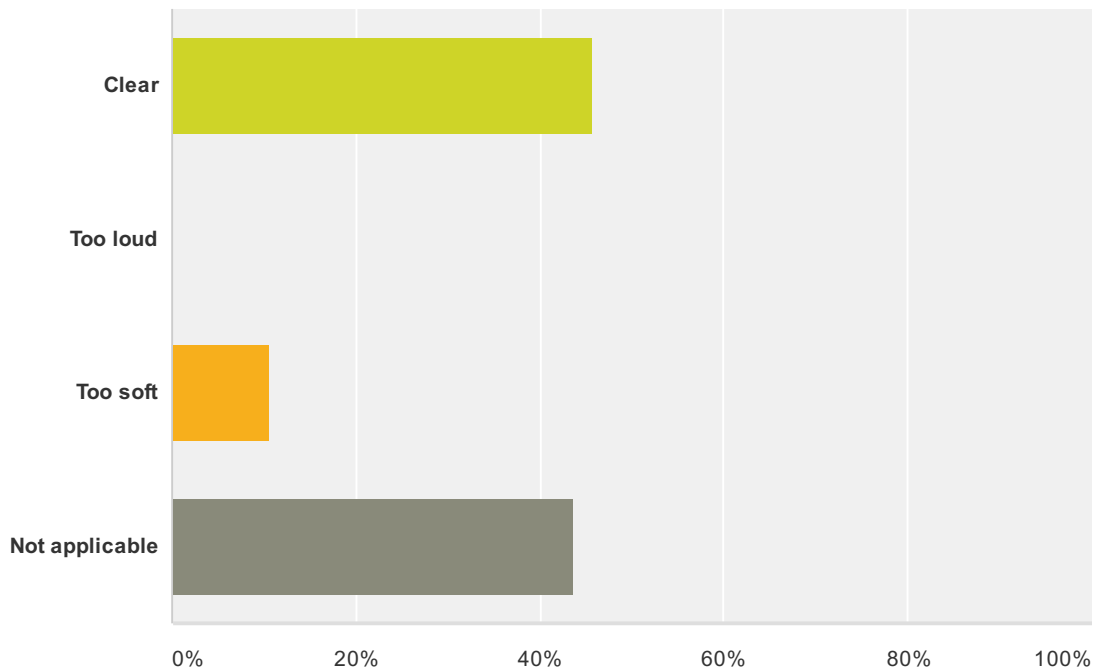
11	See above	2/28/2014 6:40 PM
12	Sounded a bit muddled at times from our seats.	2/28/2014 9:08 AM
13	As above	2/28/2014 6:16 AM
14	It was so soft and indistinct that it felt like I was sitting in another room, listening through a closed door. It was horrible.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM
15	piano was hard to hear over the orchestra during fuller orchestral passages	2/27/2014 9:07 PM
16	A bit soft in the first movement, clear thereafter	2/27/2014 7:22 PM
17	Buzzy. Couldn't always hear the piano at all. Frustrating.	2/27/2014 5:52 PM
18	His playing is so wonderful but got lost at times in the orchestra sound, esp. brasses, also I couldn't catch ANY nuances of his playing... :(	2/27/2014 5:41 PM
19	Yes! Never covered by orchestra.	2/27/2014 5:22 PM
20	Isserlis's sound did not carry well	2/27/2014 4:56 PM
21	Occasionally too soft.	2/27/2014 4:52 PM
22	We had a hard time hearing the cello.	2/27/2014 4:28 PM
23	Very difficult to hear the pianist while the orchestra played.	2/27/2014 4:05 PM
24	Very difficult to hear the pianist while the orchestra played.	2/27/2014 4:05 PM
25	Had to strain to try and hear the soloist.	2/27/2014 4:00 PM
26	From where I was sitting, when the orchestra was playing above mf, the piano soloist got lost in the sound.	2/27/2014 3:17 PM
27	Sometimes the orchestra was a bit loud over the piano	2/27/2014 2:47 PM
28	The very beginning of the Elgar Concerto was 1) not together & 2) couldn't hear the soloist at all. After a few minutes this improved.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
29	Trifinov did not project above the orchestra in both soft and loud passages. There was little sense of immediacy or presence to the soloist's sound.	2/27/2014 2:14 PM
30	I could not hear piano well at very beginning of the concerto- orchestra too loud?- over all they were balanced	2/27/2014 2:09 PM
31	Could barely hear the cello	2/27/2014 1:44 PM
32	Could hardly hear him over the orchestra.	2/27/2014 1:36 PM
33	During soft sections the ventilation fan sound drown out some of the music.	2/27/2014 1:35 PM
34	The piano was completely drowned out by the orchestra in the first movement of the Rach II. But the next 2 movements were better though orchestra still too loud for the most part. Encore was clear and sounded wonderful.	2/27/2014 1:33 PM
35	The pianissimos were lost	2/27/2014 1:32 PM
36	There were times when on the pianissimos I couldn't hear him at all.	2/27/2014 1:29 PM
37	At times though hall was hushed we simply could not hear Isserlis. Have heard him before with SPCO and he does have ability to play loudly if needed, but he was way too soft throughout, even though Elgar piece does require much pianissimo.	2/27/2014 1:25 PM
38	Cello soloist did not project well	2/27/2014 12:34 PM
39	Very hard to hear	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
40	Occasionally covered up a little by the orchestra	2/27/2014 11:54 AM
41	Again, could not hear at times when playing with orchestra.	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
42	At times the orchestra was too loud, drowning out the soloist.	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
43	Often completely obliterated by the orchestra.	2/27/2014 11:38 AM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

44	In spite of giving his absolute best, the soloist was covered by the orchestra. This is squarely the fault of the conductor, who ought to balance the two better.	2/27/2014 11:26 AM
45	Quieter than usual, but Isserlis plays on gut strings.	2/27/2014 11:25 AM
46	Bravo Daniil Trifonov! Bring him back, please! Acoustics from solo piano were great.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
47	I would qualify this as slightly too soft....might have been the artist's choice for this, too.	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
48	The piano solo (Rachmaninoff) was very muddy sounding - I was struck by it immediately - the notes just ran together so much you couldn't distinguish what was being played. It seemed a little better when the orchestra was also playing, but then the orchestra was often overpowering the sound of the piano. In contrast though, when I heard Steven Isserlis perform the cello concerto (I was one row back that night in row 3, seat 15), the solo sound was much better.	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
49	With this piece, there are always moments when it is hard to hear the soloist.	2/27/2014 11:06 AM
50	And sounded very well when playing alone	2/27/2014 10:38 AM
51	Cellist uses gut strings, which needed to be amplified to create greater balance between the soloist and orchestra.	2/27/2014 10:37 AM
52	He didnt seem to project very well	2/27/2014 10:35 AM
53	I could see that Steven Isserlis was playing intensely, but I could barely hear him.	2/27/2014 10:26 AM

## Q6 How did any remarks from the stage sound?

Answered: 179 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Clear	45.81%	82
Too loud	0%	0
Too soft	10.61%	19
Not applicable	43.58%	78
<b>Total</b>		<b>179</b>

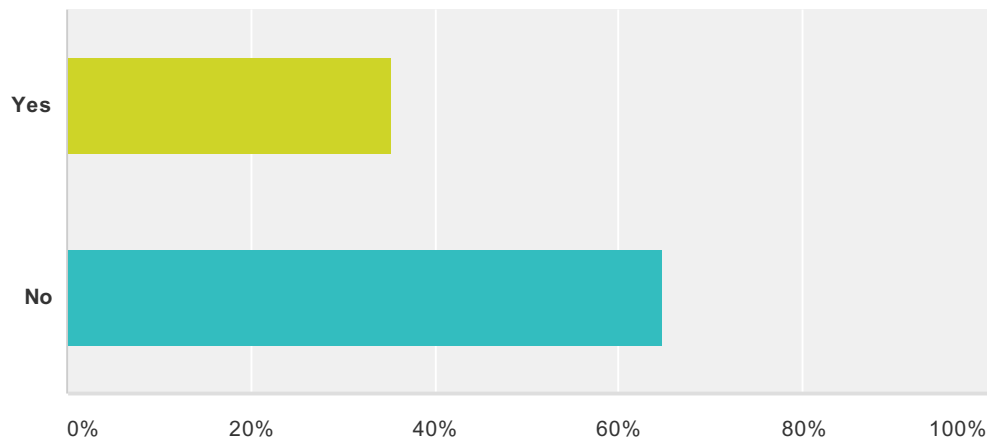
#	Comments (optional)	Date
1	muffled	3/3/2014 8:33 AM
2	The "new" sound system is a joke. Obviously a budget system!	3/1/2014 4:25 PM
3	Things were clear when the microphone was being used; when it was not, the sound of individual voices did not carry well, even just 5-6 rows from the front!	2/27/2014 10:19 PM
4	I could not understand what the soloist said when he addressed the audience.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM
5	There weren't any remarks...	2/27/2014 5:41 PM
6	But, really, the chairman of the board was pathetic. Has he never spoken in front of an audience before?	2/27/2014 4:40 PM
7	Isserlis didn't speak up enough at times, but otherwise we could hear.	2/27/2014 4:06 PM
8	or I just dont remember	2/27/2014 1:56 PM
9	Other: most remarks were made using the hand mic.	2/27/2014 1:52 PM
10	Remarks were miked.	2/27/2014 1:40 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

11	We could hear S Isserlis speak quite clearly.	2/27/2014 1:25 PM
12	They were on stage to our left with Mike- clear	2/27/2014 1:15 PM
13	I could hear, but they seemed garbled so I couldn't understand, except for Betsy Hodges, who came through clearly.	2/27/2014 1:07 PM
14	They were on stage to our left with Mike- clear	2/27/2014 12:44 PM
15	a bit muddy	2/27/2014 11:15 AM
16	Mr. Wright, as a musician, was more comfortable with using his mic. Mr. Sprenger took a bit to feel comfortable speaking up, however, that is no reflection of the audio system.	2/27/2014 10:48 AM
17	Michael Barone was at times difficult to understand (enunciation more than sound level)	2/27/2014 10:38 AM
18	Mr. Sprenger forgot to speak directly into the mic during his remarks.	2/27/2014 10:30 AM
19	There was a very bad echo bouncing back from the rear of the hall, especially on consonants	2/27/2014 10:29 AM

**Q7 Were you aware of any ambient noise from heating/cooling systems, hallways, etc? If yes, please describe in the comments.**

Answered: 187 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	35.29% 66
No	64.71% 121
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>

#	Description (if yes)	Date
1	Hissing at the doors. Sounded like wind.	3/2/2014 10:48 AM
2	A little, but I was listening for it from the prior experience	3/2/2014 9:59 AM
3	HVAC was noisy and at times distracting	3/2/2014 9:55 AM
4	Fans along the side were extremely loud to the point they were distracting the musicians!	3/2/2014 7:05 AM
5	Some howling wind sounds.	3/2/2014 12:36 AM
6	HVAC fan noise very bothersome during soft passages.	3/2/2014 12:34 AM
7	Whooshing of the HVAC.	3/1/2014 4:25 PM
8	Whistling sound from upstairs or ventilation	3/1/2014 3:16 PM
9	It sounded like an outside door was cracked open, creating a "wind tunnel" sound effect. Most noticeable at the beginning of Bolero	3/1/2014 1:45 PM
10	There were a few times that there were loud humming sounds that seemed to be coming from the hallway	2/28/2014 7:37 PM
11	I could barely hear the pp snare drum opening of the Bolero because of rather noticeable HVAC noise emanating from the left rear corner of the hall. It was very disturbing to the performance.	2/28/2014 6:40 PM
12	There was an occasional buzzing sound that came from our left. It was only near the end of the first half. We were seated in the left rear section of the main floor (when facing the stage).	2/28/2014 12:19 PM
13	I wasn't paying attention to this -- too busy trying to hear the music.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM
14	I was aware of the HVAC in moments of silence, but given our winter, I'll settle for heat!	2/27/2014 9:38 PM



## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

15	During very soft passages, some consistent, subtle but audible, smooth sounds from heating vents ?, in ceiling area ?	2/27/2014 7:32 PM
16	During very soft passages, some consistent, subtle but audible, smooth sounds from heating vents ?, in ceiling area ?	2/27/2014 7:27 PM
17	Ventilation system made loud blowing and whistling sounds. I could hardly hear the beginning of the Ravel, and it also disrupted the Rachmaninov. Several patrons were laughing because the sound was so loud.	2/27/2014 7:14 PM
18	Very loud noise from ventilation system. It was so loud that I could not hear the beginning of the Ravel, and I saw other patrons turning their heads and laughing because it was so ludicrously loud. It sounded windy, and I could also hear a pitch within the sound. Extremely disruptive.	2/27/2014 6:51 PM
19	Extremely loud noise from the ventilation system. I could hear what sounded like blowing wind as well as a pitch. I was aware of other audience members turning their heads towards the sound as we all tried to figure out where it was coming from. It was extremely disruptive to my ability to enjoy the concert.	2/27/2014 6:47 PM
20	There was a strange whirring sound when the orchestra was not playing.	2/27/2014 5:22 PM
21	people talking behind us	2/27/2014 4:06 PM
22	Heating ducts sounded, chairs squeaked on stage when moved	2/27/2014 2:47 PM
23	One concert I attended has crackle coming from the ceiling speakers. At another concert I was able to hear a quiet hum from somewhere.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
24	I hear some rumbling but tried not to pay attention to it. I was more bothered by the bright lights shining in my eyes in tier 3 for the first concert.	2/27/2014 2:33 PM
25	Both nights I've been there has been a persistent high pitched whining sound. It's very distracting during quieter moments of pieces. This issue seriously needs to be addressed as it does impact my listening experience	2/27/2014 2:32 PM
26	Both nights I've been there has been a persistent high pitched whining sound. It's very distracting during quieter moments of pieces. This issue seriously needs to be addressed as it does impact my listening experience.	2/27/2014 2:31 PM
27	"Whooshing" air noise from HVAC.	2/27/2014 1:52 PM
28	A weird hum of a fan or wind? Only when it was really quiet in the hall	2/27/2014 1:44 PM
29	I think it is the ventilation fan and it is very noticeable during periods of the music.	2/27/2014 1:35 PM
30	Kind of a buzz...some kind of noise coming from what I guess are the vents	2/27/2014 1:32 PM
31	It seems like there was almost a buzz that seemed to be coming from what I assume are the vents.	2/27/2014 1:29 PM
32	Heard rushing of air during a lot of the concert. Some musicians were looking up at the sound with frustrated looks on their faces.	2/27/2014 1:28 PM
33	I heard a bit of what I thought might be HVAC fans, but not any worse than pre-renovation	2/27/2014 1:19 PM
34	ventilation wheezing off and on, also during concert of 2/15	2/27/2014 1:07 PM
35	"Whooshing" air noise from HVAC.	2/27/2014 12:46 PM
36	At first I thought it was the sound of sirens outside the hall, and then I thought an instrument was continuing to play, but then I realized the HVAC system was making the sound - an actual pitch. Also lots of squeaking from the chairs in the tiers.	2/27/2014 12:43 PM
37	Was aware of air conditioning noise in left rear	2/27/2014 12:34 PM
38	Constant whooshing sound like air rushing through cracks in a door left ajar	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
39	There seemed to be a whistling/air moving sound that was very distracting during soft passages.	2/27/2014 12:20 PM
40	Some whooshing from the heating system at the rear of the hall. Might be objectionable for people way in the back.	2/27/2014 12:09 PM
41	The HVAC system was SO loud and very much distracted from the performance	2/27/2014 12:05 PM
42	There was a sucking or hissing noise that appeared coming from the rear exit doors	2/27/2014 11:45 AM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

43	There is a fan blowing in the ceiling somewhere which I have never heard before—and I have been attending Orchestra Hall concerts since 1974.	2/27/2014 11:28 AM
44	HVAC, although less than in previous weeks	2/27/2014 11:28 AM
45	HVAC system roaring	2/27/2014 11:26 AM
46	HVAC roaring	2/27/2014 11:25 AM
47	Nothing structural, but I'll say that coughers and program rattlers are the bane of my enjoyment of live orchestral music. I wish that the audience could be held to a higher standard of quiet.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
48	Whirring/roaring noise from HVAC in quiet moments - very distracting	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
49	Sound of air from heating system (sounded like it was coming from the back and upper part of the hall) was evident during quiet parts of pieces. This was evident in the "old" hall too.	2/27/2014 11:22 AM
50	very loud and distracting "wind tunnel" to the left. so loud i couldn't hear the orchestra when they were playing softly	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
51	It sounds like there's a wind tunnel stage right	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
52	As was true in the previous hall, there is a constant fan noise (very soft) that is noticeable during soft passages.	2/27/2014 11:18 AM
53	Could hear how systems turned on and off.	2/27/2014 11:17 AM
54	heating system. But it was way too hot and uncomfortable	2/27/2014 11:15 AM
55	YES!!! Major problem that must be addressed - the chairs in the tiers (and those that are moveable on the main floor) MUST have some kind of felt footing attached to stop the scraping noise they make when people move them during performance - in all 3 concerts I've attended the sound of chairs moving has been very noticeable during the music - at least 4 occasions during the cello concerto alone - so distracting! Also, the sound of the HVAC is definitely noticeable when the music is quiet or ending - I absolutely notice the sound of the fan running.	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
56	There was a howling wind sound that was very annoying.	2/27/2014 11:06 AM
57	There was a high pitched sound that was very annoying. Several of us heard it. Wondered if it was coming from the hallway or if it was a hearing aid.	2/27/2014 11:05 AM
58	HVAC and buzzing lights	2/27/2014 10:55 AM
59	HVAC noise and buzzing lighting.	2/27/2014 10:48 AM
60	Seemed to hear a faint hissing noise above me.	2/27/2014 10:44 AM
61	There was a blowing sound from the heating system that never used to be there in previous years	2/27/2014 10:35 AM
62	Odd sound near the left side of the stage as audience faces it (so stage right, I suppose), sort of whirring or humming; an audience services person said it was the wind from an outer door (??)	2/27/2014 10:34 AM
63	Perhaps a door was accidentally left open	2/27/2014 10:26 AM
64	I could hear people talking out in the hallway near my seat	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
65	The HVAC system was inexplicably quite loud at times, ruining some of the pianissimo musical moments	2/27/2014 10:09 AM

# Orchestra Hall Acoustics

## Q8 If you sat in a similar location prior to the renovation, please describe any acoustical differences that you noticed. (optional)

Answered: 76 Skipped: 114

#	Responses	Date
1	The bass is tighter. The Q of the hall has been lowered. The violins are now harsh, and there seems to be a 1.5 KHZ to 2.5Khz catching the violins flutes and brass. This might have been masked by the previous over resonant acoustic. I suspect however that new surfaces are to blame.	3/3/2014 8:33 AM
2	From an acoustical standpoint, there was very little difference in sound from the 3rd tier balcony on stage right overlooking the orchestra. Differences in sound of the orchestra were due more to differences in personnel pre and post renovation.	3/2/2014 1:25 PM
3	Better before renovation	3/2/2014 11:36 AM
4	Brighter high ranges.	3/1/2014 11:42 AM
5	Not as much bloom in the sound and the resonance of the orchestra is less. Sounds like some people are working to be heard when that should not be the case. (Bassoons/tuba/basses)	3/1/2014 11:18 AM
6	Much brighter, less depth and much less bass. Crass when loud	3/1/2014 10:31 AM
7	There is MUCH less reverberation. The acoustics have been tampered with to a disturbing degree. A hall once known for a vibrant, exciting sound is little better than the Ordway now. It seems that there was too much effort made to make our fine acoustic hall into a venue more suitable for amplified concerts.	2/28/2014 6:40 PM
8	Better definition.	2/28/2014 4:19 PM
9	Prior to renovation, OH had a wonderful combination of envelopment and clarity. I didn't get the sense of envelopment, especially on the Planets that I remember.	2/28/2014 11:24 AM
10	The sound seemed louder and quite strident compared to my memory of this seat, which I like quite a lot for the view of the players and conductor.	2/28/2014 11:12 AM
11	The vibrancy of the sound in the semi-circle surrounding the conductor.	2/28/2014 9:49 AM
12	In the past I was always impressed with the clarity of sound and could feel the music at any location.	2/28/2014 6:16 AM
13	HUGE acoustical differences!! I never had this experience of simply not being able to hear.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM
14	It's been so long since I've been to hear the orchestra. I just figured that I need to try another location and see if the balance might be a bit better more towards the center. Most of the brass played for me during the lock-out and I guess I was more keenly aware of their sonority. 25 years ago I used to sit on stage with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Philharmonic as part of the Westminster Choir, so I always had a good seat to hear the entire orchestra. I may have been too low at Orchestra Hall to get the conductor's point of hearing and overall ensemble?	2/27/2014 9:38 PM
15	I recall the piano sounding louder and clearer	2/27/2014 9:07 PM
16	We usually try to sit on the LEFT side of the main floor (not the right) and a bit further back, so acoustical differences are hard to assess.	2/27/2014 8:56 PM
17	In same seats before, did not notice the ?ventilation sounds during silent passages.	2/27/2014 7:32 PM
18	In same seats, I do not recall the above noted ventilation (?) sounds.	2/27/2014 7:27 PM
19	No difference.	2/27/2014 7:22 PM
20	I have never been aware of ventilation system noise before.	2/27/2014 7:14 PM
21	Previous weeks' sound from the rear balcony was clearer than before the renovation. The main floor sound was very muddy compared to prior to renovation.	2/27/2014 5:52 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

22	There was a more even balance between orchestra and the soloist	2/27/2014 5:41 PM
23	No differences noted.	2/27/2014 5:35 PM
24	Honestly, none. I was told by MO musicians that the hall was drier now, but I don't think so!	2/27/2014 5:22 PM
25	No	2/27/2014 5:22 PM
26	Slightly less brass reverberation from back of the hall, ie a favorable change.	2/27/2014 5:14 PM
27	The volume of the sound, in general, seemed quieter than I would have liked, as though a bit distant.	2/27/2014 4:40 PM
28	We enjoyed our old seats. The sides aren't our favorite place.	2/27/2014 4:33 PM
29	I am so disappointed in the new acoustics, it is difficult for me to keep going to the hall. The lush sound of the violins is gone. It doesn't matter how loud they play...the louder they play, the less I hear.	2/27/2014 4:05 PM
30	I am so disappointed in the new acoustics, it is difficult for me to keep going to the hall. The lush sound of the violins is gone. It doesn't matter how loud they play...the louder they play, the less I hear.	2/27/2014 4:05 PM
31	Winds and strings not as clear as before. Trumpets and horns are loud.	2/27/2014 4:03 PM
32	Strings just don't carry, they used to be so wonderfully clear.	2/27/2014 4:00 PM
33	I felt that the strings sound muffled. Their sound does not carry clear and true now. The balance between the brass and the strings is off. The strings can't play loud enough to be really heard.	2/27/2014 3:54 PM
34	I think the sound is brighter and I could hear the different instruments more distinctly. I liked it	2/27/2014 3:18 PM
35	No appreciable difference	2/27/2014 2:47 PM
36	Sorry, I can't remember.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
37	small ensemble playing was good. I think there is less warmth in the overall sound of the whole orchestra.	2/27/2014 2:33 PM
38	Difficult to assess after only one concert	2/27/2014 2:09 PM
39	none	2/27/2014 2:04 PM
40	In the past always sat on right side and in second box - maybe explain why brass seemed louder. though they are on the right side - they face toward the left.	2/27/2014 1:56 PM
41	The sound is not as warm and string sound is thinner. I know this may be in part because of so many ringers which was inevitable because of the horrific situation.	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
42	When the tutti orchestra is at their loudest volume, the volume in the audience feels like about 65%.	2/27/2014 1:36 PM
43	Prior seating was slightly forward but no ambient noise was noticed at that time.	2/27/2014 1:35 PM
44	Sat mostly in Tier 2 in years past. Orchestra then sounded more balanced, especially winds, not so soft, and brass not so loud.	2/27/2014 1:33 PM
45	Sound seems less balanced than before	2/27/2014 1:24 PM
46	The sound was better. Not as much high-end bouncing around. Orchestral sound was solid top to bottom and balanced. Brass can still cover the strings out but they will have to work harder to do so now.	2/27/2014 1:19 PM
47	Often did enough to hear difference. Definitely not balanced - brass way too loud and had never heard echo in past.	2/27/2014 1:15 PM
48	none	2/27/2014 1:07 PM
49	I really didn't notice a difference other than the audience seemed more engaged with the music and the orchestra.	2/27/2014 1:02 PM
50	Often did enough to hear difference. Definitely not balanced - brass way too loud and had never heard echo in past.	2/27/2014 12:44 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

51	No HVAC sound before, the sound was well balanced, cohesive, brass were present and powerful when they needed to be. Not anymore.	2/27/2014 12:43 PM
52	Not as bright and clear a sound. More muddled	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
53	Can't say there were any	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
54	Seems just a bit louder and brighter.	2/27/2014 12:09 PM
55	The orchestra was better balanced prior to renovation.	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
56	No fan sound.	2/27/2014 11:28 AM
57	I didn't notice much acoustical difference in the rear, aside from the orchestra itself having a different sound without Maestro Vanska, and with many stand-ins.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
58	bass felt more muffled and the woodwinds were jagged in balance - not blended well. Probably orchestra, not hall (first concert back, after all). Somewhat brighter than before, with less bloom to the sound (drier). I'd prefer about 25% less dry.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
59	Sat in same area	2/27/2014 11:22 AM
60	n/a	2/27/2014 11:17 AM
61	Wind rushing through doors	2/27/2014 11:16 AM
62	Major differences that I've noticed in our seats are the brass sounding quieter and how unbelievably muddy-sounding the solo piano was.	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
63	never heard this before	2/27/2014 11:06 AM
64	Probably about the same, possibly a bit better. Didn't like the ambient mechanical noise	2/27/2014 10:55 AM
65	None noticed	2/27/2014 10:50 AM
66	Not recently enough to give a valid comparison	2/27/2014 10:48 AM
67	Brass seemed to "pop out" more now. Strings seem a bit muddied, not as "crisp".	2/27/2014 10:30 AM
68	prior to the renovation acoustics were always perfect, in the last two concerts with soloists- they were hard to hear at many points.	2/27/2014 10:28 AM
69	The sound was less balanced than I remember from my previous experiences in the 3rd balcony, and there seemed to be some slight delays/out-of-synch, especially in the lower voices.	2/27/2014 10:26 AM
70	This is our location since sometime in the 80s. We consider these to be the best seats in the house acoustically, but sight lines may be a bit different thanks to the new baffles (or memory is fuzzy).	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
71	we always sit in the same 3rd floor rear area and have never had trouble before hearing the soloists until this concert	2/27/2014 10:24 AM
72	I felt that the bass was heavier than before. There was less blending in the sound, but that might be because the orchestra is not full yet, and because they haven't adjusted to the new acoustics.	2/27/2014 10:22 AM
73	sounded pretty much the same as before	2/27/2014 10:18 AM
74	I noticed no acoustical differences. We sit in the front row of the first box on the third tier right side. We chose those seats because of the excellent sound quality there.	2/27/2014 10:14 AM
75	I've had front and center seats for years and have never heard any rushing of air like I did at this concert.	2/27/2014 10:09 AM
76	bass seemed relatively weak	2/27/2014 9:58 AM

# Orchestra Hall Acoustics

## Q9 What other comments would you like to pass along?

Answered: 95 Skipped: 95

#	Responses	Date
1	It is frankly hard to sort acoustics from the downgrade in the sound of the orchestra. The orchestra is a far cry from what it was. The violins in particular are rough. It seems to me this orchestra needs a lot of work. I have listened to the BIS SACDs, and I have them all. I can listen in 5 channel the way the disc should be listened to. I can recreate orchestra hall and the sound of the orchestra almost exactly. I'm sorry to say things have slipped a lot, and really need taking in hand.	3/3/2014 8:33 AM
2	The whole color scheme and feel of the new hall, both lobby and the hall itself, is cold and uninviting compared to the former hall, which felt like a comfortable place to hear music instead of like a skyway or a warehouse.	3/3/2014 1:42 AM
3	Not an acoustical issue but annoying: There are still boxes of construction debris in the hallway of the third tier balcony next to section A that have been there since the hall reopened. It would take about five minutes to clear it away, but it sits there week after week.	3/2/2014 1:25 PM
4	The conductor really was awful.	3/2/2014 10:48 AM
5	Beautiful additions throughout!! So very good to be back in the Hall...now, bring back Vanska!!!	3/2/2014 9:59 AM
6	Beautiful changes and amenities!! Sooo good to be back...bring back Vanska...!	3/2/2014 9:55 AM
7	What a cold and uninviting lobby. Don't they know that snow and slush are tracked in by the audience? Very slippery surfaces throughout.	3/1/2014 4:25 PM
8	Not as resonant	3/1/2014 3:16 PM
9	I think a shell of some sort behind the orchestra, or tiered riser seating for the strings would help the balance/blend issues.	3/1/2014 1:45 PM
10	Sounds like the total reverb has diminished about 15%.	3/1/2014 11:18 AM
11	Please restore to the way it was	3/1/2014 10:31 AM
12	Lobby is still crowded with no clear 'flow'. Backstage area wasn't touched. Really? (Choir rehearsal / storage room remains a disgrace!)	3/1/2014 8:26 AM
13	altho pretty, i think the colors of stage lighting on back wall do not mesh well with wood. they are cool and wood is warm. also the color used for extensions onto stage and rest of hall is too dark and stand out too much.	2/28/2014 11:30 PM
14	Bring back Osmo. He will make them fix this. Maybe that is what MOA is afraid of.	2/28/2014 6:40 PM
15	How could all this money be spent making the rows closer to each other than before? At the intermission I went and say on the side partial view because my knees were at my chin. Disability access is poor.	2/28/2014 3:30 PM
16	The blue-gray color should have either been blue or gray. It's blue with the lights on and gray with the lights down. A strange effect.	2/28/2014 11:24 AM
17	It seemed like noise from the audience was louder. I felt like I heard everything- unwrapper of cough drops, turning of programs, etc. I did not remember this from before.	2/28/2014 7:58 AM
18	I felt removed from the concert that night. More like watching tv than the vital aliveness I have come to love in orchestra hall.	2/28/2014 6:16 AM
19	Can't help but presume that the renovators presumed that they were expecting amplified sound to be the norm, since amplified speech was the only way to hear things, even from close up.	2/27/2014 10:19 PM
20	I couldn't help but presume that the acoustics were so very bad because the intention of the renovation had less to do with acoustics from "acoustic" instruments, and more about being able to handle things with amplification. I will certainly never sit in this area again if I'm there to hear music.	2/27/2014 10:16 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

21	The strings (particularly the violins) had a nice sound, but I wondered if they were a little less in number and thus not as full sounding as they could be? Our hall has been known to favour the bass frequencies, but I didn't get that from the Double Basses. Again, fewer players? The one or two pedal tones from the organ did seem adequate, given it's electronic limitations.	2/27/2014 9:38 PM
22	Seats much improved.	2/27/2014 9:07 PM
23	Some coat lockers did not work properly.	2/27/2014 8:56 PM
24	The gunmetal gray paint on the tiers is hideous. It looks like they hung the hall with gun boats.	2/27/2014 8:51 PM
25	Overall, acoustics remain great.	2/27/2014 7:32 PM
26	Overall, acoustics remain great.	2/27/2014 7:27 PM
27	I just thought it was because they hadn't been playing together for so long and that it will improve - not sure if that is true or if it is the hall...	2/27/2014 5:41 PM
28	Lobby now has a less open, colder quality.	2/27/2014 5:38 PM
29	Renovated lobby area now has an industrial character.	2/27/2014 5:35 PM
30	Overall, acoustics remain alive and glorious.	2/27/2014 5:14 PM
31	Generally quite good. I also talked to an orchestra member and asked him what he thought of the acoustics as a player on the stage. He was positive.	2/27/2014 4:52 PM
32	The prices are quite high for limited incomes.	2/27/2014 4:33 PM
33	So happy to have the orchestra back playing in Orchestra Hall!	2/27/2014 4:28 PM
34	I think it was a mistake getting rid of the back wall on the main floor, i.e. the wall immediately behind the last row. It muffled noise behind it and was a sounding board for the music. A sound booth for classical concerts? This does not make sense.	2/27/2014 4:06 PM
35	We were sitting in the back next to the sound people and I found the lights distracting	2/27/2014 4:00 PM
36	In the past coming to a classical concert at Orchestra Hall was a physical experience of a wonderful bath in sound, now the experience seems more removed, like I am listening on the radio.	2/27/2014 3:54 PM
37	I wish people didn't cough.	2/27/2014 3:18 PM
38	When are they going to change the chairs on the 3rd floor tiers to match the rest of the hall? Why no chairs in the lounge areas on the 2nd and 2nd tiers. People there need to sit too. They have chairs on the main floor.	2/27/2014 2:47 PM
39	I sat way up on the third balcony for the first concert back and heard everything really well.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
40	I will be attending the March 14th concert again in the third tier, but this time in the center rear of the tier. I am hoping that I will hear a better balance than before as when I was in the box on the side.	2/27/2014 2:45 PM
41	waiting to sit in my usual left back third main floor seat before finally deciding. but 3rd balcony chorus was lovely.	2/27/2014 2:39 PM
42	brightness of sound less pleasing than before. final judgement waits more full complement of orig. players. trumpets a bit more tamped down - a plus	2/27/2014 2:35 PM
43	Figure out how to tame the spotlights in tier 3. I understand that the lack of full sound might have to do with so many regular performers not playing. But I think there is room for improvement.	2/27/2014 2:33 PM
44	See comment for question 7. Very important issue!	2/27/2014 2:32 PM
45	See comment for question 7. Very important issue!	2/27/2014 2:31 PM
46	We heard some static apparently from an open mike during the last Thursday coffee concert. We are in a different area but still in the front 3rd. I don't know why there should be any difference since little has changed. I have heard nothing from anyone that the acoustics have changed. Same ceiling, same back	2/27/2014 2:04 PM
47	We need Vanska back!!!!	2/27/2014 1:56 PM
48	I sat in the last seat on the left side, about halfway back. I thought the acoustics were excellent, and even mentioned this to my companion.	2/27/2014 1:52 PM

## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

49	I sat in the center section in the row just behind the cross-aisle. They were effectively partial view/obstructed view because of the accessible seating in the cross-aisle. The level crossing negates the raked floor and site lines are disrupted.	2/27/2014 1:52 PM
50	I for one have no confidence that this whole lockout is "over" until the person responsible (Hanson?) is gone. He is a sour, unsmiling person who seems to think the orchestra belongs to him. I will buy only tickets to concerts until that man is gone. And bring back Osmo!	2/27/2014 1:44 PM
51	With more than a third of the orchestra filled out by ringers it is not at this point the old Minnesota Orchestra.	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
52	Why is Michael Henson still on the payroll, and leading the administration? He nearly ruined everything, received bonuses during the lockout, and yet there he still is. I can't imagine anyone trusting him to do anything but additional harm. Get rid of him!	2/27/2014 1:40 PM
53	I desperately miss the acoustics of the hall pre-lockout. I'm terribly upset that the musicians' instrument has been tampered with.	2/27/2014 1:36 PM
54	I don't know how much of problems I heard is this current orchestra and how much is sound but I do know that with Osmo back we would all be happier. Please hire him back.	2/27/2014 1:33 PM
55	Both times I have sat on the sides once in the front left once in the back third right I heard that same weird noise from what I assume are the vents.	2/27/2014 1:29 PM
56	My comment has to do less with the HVAC system than with what I heard that night musically. I have never heard the orchestra and soloist so out of synch before in my life. If you think that the audience is going to keep accepting cheap conductors and not notice a difference, you are 100% wrong. Please bring Osmo Vanska back to bring a solid base to this orchestra. And fix the air noise, for Christ's sake there have been months where this problem could have been fixed. Why has our fine orchestra turned into such a shoddy operation?	2/27/2014 1:28 PM
57	The hall acoustics are so v important, much much more so than lobby. We hope they get it right. We also hope Osmo Vanska is hired back and v soon. We are waiting.	2/27/2014 1:25 PM
58	I will be sitting in a couple other spots in March, but so far I think the acoustics are better. Some of the previously excess high-end seems to be absorbed in the stagebox and the room	2/27/2014 1:19 PM
59	Hall balance very important. Strings did not sound nearly as clear on this side. Vanska equally important. Please hire back!!	2/27/2014 1:15 PM
60	Ventilation noise was very apparent during quiet passages.	2/27/2014 1:07 PM
61	Thanks for asking.	2/27/2014 1:02 PM
62	Isserlis and the orchestra were frequently out of balance (orchestra too loud), and from where I sat sounded out-of-synch at times. Friends sitting near the front did not notice the same issues, they said on the main floor it was fine.	2/27/2014 12:46 PM
63	The lockers in the hallway malfunction and had to ask for assistance from one of the ushers to help close and then re-open the lockers. Surely, after the extensive renovation attention should have been given to the lockers. And please, terminate Michael Hansen and bring back Osmo Vanska.	2/27/2014 12:45 PM
64	Hall balance very important. Strings did not sound nearly as clear on this side. Vanska equally important. Please hire back!!	2/27/2014 12:44 PM
65	In general the acoustics are so live that care needs to be taken with balance. The listening experience can approach brutality if the brass and percussion are too loud. My favorite location is 3rd tier close to the stage. The sound has a chance to mix by the time it reaches that distance but is much clearer than a seat in the back of the hall.	2/27/2014 12:38 PM
66	Need more ushers checking in concert goers	2/27/2014 12:29 PM
67	I was not at an orchestra concert, but at the All-State Choir concert on Feb. 15th.	2/27/2014 12:20 PM
68	To me, it's improved, and it was already good. No complaints.	2/27/2014 12:09 PM
69	In general, the sound was more balanced and round at the back than at the other concerts when I sat main floor, 15 rows or less from the front.	2/27/2014 11:48 AM
70	I still think too much sound, esp, that of soloists, is going up over this section of seats.	2/27/2014 11:45 AM
71	Why was it necessary to hang the obnoxious speakers from the ceiling? Why were they necessary in a venue with such brilliant acoustics?	2/27/2014 11:45 AM



## Orchestra Hall Acoustics

72	I'm going to try a seat further back in the future. I think much of the sound may be going over this section of seats.	2/27/2014 11:38 AM
73	Regarding ambient noise - I noticed many children under the age of 15 in my section during the 2/22 Saturday night concert. There were 3 directly behind me and 2 directly next to me. The 2 next to me were well behaved, but the 3 boys behind me were awful! Stomping feet during the performance (out of boredom), talking, loudly drinking sodas.. It was extremely distracting, and we moved away from them into empty seats for the second half. They were "shushed" more than once by other patrons. Isn't there a minimum age for attendance? Will you please start enforcing it? We are regular subscribers, and those kids ruined the first half of the concert for us. Thanks.	2/27/2014 11:23 AM
74	Hall seems to be in good acoustic shape. It think the added bevels (think that's what they're called) near the stage may help the orchestra players hear themselves. I sang on that stage in the past and it was very hard to hear the other singers and orchestra players so hope this improves that situation.	2/27/2014 11:22 AM
75	very disappointed in the lack of renovation or even coat of paint in the ladies restroom to the left. it looks like an old high school restroom with broken locks and peeling paint. it looks dumpy.	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
76	I really wanted to like the renovation, despite everything, but it was not executed well. Too many corners were cut making it seem cheap and corporate. The lobby does look good from the outside and the appearance of the hall itself is improved, but it's a disappointment over all.	2/27/2014 11:20 AM
77	To my ear, which isn't the most discriminating, the sound is excellent.	2/27/2014 11:18 AM
78	The change in the pitch in the floor makes a difference in the site lines. The chairs in row 13 block the view in rows 14 and 15. Of the remaining concerts we have, we have 2 concerts in row 16 and 1 concert in row 24. I hope we'll be able to see better in row 16. The sound was fine....the site lines...not as good.	2/27/2014 11:18 AM
79	Lobbies very cold, as awkward as they were before the renovation	2/27/2014 11:17 AM
80	Orchestra Hall looks bland, cold, and lifeless.	2/27/2014 11:16 AM
81	Seats are less comfortable, room was stifling. I'd rather start off cooler and let the room warm with more people than feel like it's unbearably hot.	2/27/2014 11:15 AM
82	Please fix the feet on the movable chairs with felt or wool! I can't believe that was not taken into account!	2/27/2014 11:11 AM
83	I have never had a chance to attend a concert. I support the orchestra and the players. The Minn Orch has a great history and should have a great future. ATB Bob Maher	2/27/2014 11:08 AM
84	It feels like the seats are a bit bigger, a plus. I suppose the loge seating at row 13 is good for handicapped, however, it obscures sightlines for several rows behind.	2/27/2014 10:48 AM
85	Have heard a variety of complaints about softness of soloist, and the HVAC noise.	2/27/2014 10:37 AM
86	How can there be problems with HVAC noise in a concert hall after a \$50 million renovation? Infuriating!	2/27/2014 10:35 AM
87	Seems like the hall itself needed a dress rehearsal with HVAC and acoustics technicians in attendance.	2/27/2014 10:34 AM
88	I had not noticed HVAC sound, but have heard that it bothered other patrons.	2/27/2014 10:30 AM
89	Overall, very pleased	2/27/2014 10:30 AM
90	The chorus came through just beautifully in The Planets, but they were right behind me!	2/27/2014 10:26 AM
91	The ventilation system was louder than the orchestra at times! It was a constant irritation and frustration!! When you are paying \$\$\$ for tickets, you at least want to hear what you are paying for.	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
92	Any sound differences for me were more likely related to the decimation of the orchestra thanks to the lockout. Unfortunately we still have the same old uncomfortable seats we inherited from the first tier when it got upgraded seats years ago. The only real improvement I see from this expensive renovation is better traffic flow.	2/27/2014 10:25 AM
93	I sat in the same area for the concern on Feb 22, and had the same experience. At one point the timpani (playing quietly) overpowered everyone else (at that place it was mostly mid-range instruments, also playing quietly).	2/27/2014 10:22 AM
94	We were underwhelmed by the renovation. Perhaps the traffic flow is better but there are fewer places to sit during intermission. Also, we have the same old pink uncomfortable chairs in our box.	2/27/2014 10:14 AM

# Orchestra Hall Acoustics

95

It was also wickedly hot

2/27/2014 10:09 AM