

Men's Club Trip to Strathmore

On January 11, the Men's Club visited the Music Center at Strathmore. 16 members and wives toured the center, hosted by our terrific guide Bob Schultz, who regaled us with stories and information about the inner workings of the Music Center, which celebrates its 13th anniversary on February 5.



We began our visit by proceeding 3 flights down the grand staircase to The Green Room (which is painted light blue), the waiting area for the artists. Above the staircase hangs a huge and beautiful mobile, "The Music of Light: a suspended sculptural environment" created by Meryl Taradash. Next to The Green Room are the performers' dressing rooms. We learned that Strathmore is one of the few venues in the world with windows in the dressing rooms, because in most others they are underground.



Next we headed through the backstage area onto the stage. Bob pointed out that the stage has a slight spring to it to assist dancers. The back quarter of the stage contains a hidden elevator for bringing up large additional rows for large choruses and large equipment.



Bob Shultz standing on the elevator section of the stage

Bob then detailed the sophisticated acoustical technology built into the Center. Every part of the auditorium is designed to ensure the best sound possible, from the wood chosen for the walls and floor to the fabric of the seats. He showed us the grills in the walls that have hidden curtains to reflect or absorb sound, depending on the type of group performing. The heart of the acoustical design are 36 glass panels above the stage whose angles can be adjusted independently to deflect the sound evenly to attendees in all 4 levels of the hall, based upon the size and composition of the group performing on the stage. All these features make Strathmore one of the best venues in the country to hear a concert.





After the tour, David Frome commented that he will have a new respect for the acoustical design when he attends a future concert. Furthermore, Alan Kreger remarked about the sophisticated technology that went into the acoustical design. All of the attendees commented about Bob Schultz's depth of knowledge of Strathmore and his obvious love of the hall, where he has volunteered for the past 13 years.