



## QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH, ONTARIO

Compact and flexible, Tannoy's new **QFlex** line is ideal for acoustically challenging venues where aesthetics and intelligibility are of equal importance – Exactly the kind of solution needed to surmount an increasingly frustrating problem at this Norval, Ontario Ethnic Croatian parish.

Built in a traditional neo-gothic style and completed in April 2008, the Queen of Peace Croatian Franciscan Centre is now home to 1200 families from the area's Croatian community. "It's an extraordinary church," says Father Stjepan Pandzic. Unfortunately the sanctuary, though aesthetically beautiful, is so reverberant that the 3000 plus congregation has been having difficulty hearing exactly what Father Stjepan has had to say since day one.

Enter Mississauga, Ontario based, **RP Dynamics**. Over the past ten years the firm has focused on A/V installations and integration at Houses of Worship, Theatres and, increasingly, custom solutions for unique broadcast applications, as well as housing a successful Production and Rentals Division. While not a huge company, they've grown consistently, says Cynthia Wong, RP's Accounts Manager, cultivating a reputation for perfection and passion that allows them to continue to grow, even in troubling economic times.

"Our philosophy is to do an install once and do it right the first time," Wong says. Doing it right, however, doesn't always mean doing the obvious...

Though a relatively new building, aesthetics had clearly taken precedence over acoustics in its initial construction. "It's probably one of the most reverberant spaces that anyone would work with," Wong says. "There are no soft surfaces in the sanctuary." Owing to aesthetic concerns and budget, however, reducing the reverberant nature of the space with acoustic treatments was never an option.

While the client had sizable needs they required a compact solution – One that treated their problem cost effectively and preserved the character of the space, while increasing intelligibility substantially during services. Ultimately the minimalist approach suited RP Dynamic's ethic very well. If it's possible to do more with less, Wong explains, "we will."



In a conversation between Wong, RP Dynamics Owner and Project Manager, Roland Danner, and Senior Tech, Mike Sones, it was decided that a Tannoy **QFlex 40** was the way to go. Tannoy's QFlex array offers highly intelligible music and speech reinforcement in typically challenging spaces, integrating cutting edge DSP, network control and amplification in a stackable package that's as easy on the eyes as it is on the ears.

Rather than simply drawing the spec up on paper, RP brought Tannoy's QFlex solution to the church for a demonstration, using scaffolding to rough in its eventual placement and to demonstrate the benefits of the self-powered, digitally steerable loudspeaker array in a boots on the ground fashion. Even during the demo there was an initial, drastic improvement, Wong says. "We've tried other steerable arrays in the past. We're very impressed with this one. It's superior. We just hung it straight down and were still able to steer to the first couple of pews, whereas with a lot of boxes we can't do that."

That's another of RP Dynamic's philosophies, Wong adds. "Point and shoot the sound where you want it to go. Because we've reduced the secondary echo and all the other residual reverb we're able to increase intelligibility."

While the initial plan was to swap out the entire system, because of budget, total replacement was scrapped in favour of upgrading and reusing existing equipment whenever possible. "We reprogrammed their existing Ashly DSP, added a surge protector, cleaned up their cabling, took down their two main speakers and replaced them with one QFlex 40." QFlex also enabled RP Dynamics to blow out two of four pre-existing transept speakers.

And just in time...

Completed in four days during the beginning of April 2009, the system absolutely had to be in place and functioning on Palm Sunday, and it was. Typically, Tannoy technology plays well in any application where high aesthetic value is key, and QFlex' sleek design continues that tradition admirably. "People hardly notice it," Wong says, but they do notice a difference sonically – "A huge, huge, difference."

On Palm Sunday the verdict was overwhelmingly positive. Tucked right up close to the ceiling above the sanctuary's imposing centre archway, the QFlex 40 passed with flying colours. Providing all the power and intelligibility required, without ever distracting parishioners from the spare beauty of the setting, the spiritual weight of the occasion, or the power of Father Stjepan's message.

Internal Photographs by Evan Tozer.