

CASE STUDY



Photo: Pfeiffer Partners Architects

Harlequin Floors Key to Successful Program at USC

Summary

The Gloria Kaufman International Dance Center is the 54,000 square foot home of the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, one of the largest facilities dedicated to dance on a private university campus. Designed for an innovative curriculum that supports a range of dance styles, USC designated Harlequin to provide wall-to-wall flooring for a large 3,550 square foot performance studio as well as five additional dance studios in their new state-of-the-art building that opened in the fall of 2016.

Challenge

When the program's first BFA class arrived on campus in the fall of 2015, the new building was still under construction. Under constraints to provide a healthy learning environment for the new students, USC required a turnkey solution for Kaufman's transitional home. The building's classrooms with hard subfloors would need to transform quickly into dance studios with professional and safe sprung dance floors. The university sought a portable flooring system that could be utilized to convert the classrooms in the temporary space, yet also be used to support performances around the campus and arts community.

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Project Snapshot

USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance

Client: University of Southern California

Architect: Pfeiffer Partners Architects

Theatre

Consultants: Auerbach – Pollock – Friedlander

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Products: Harlequin WoodSpring®, Harlequin Cascade™, Harlequin Studio™, Harlequin Maple Hardwood Surface, Harlequin Liberty LatchLoc™ Panels, Installation, Harlequin Liberty® Panel Storage Carts

Scope: Permanent installation of Harlequin WoodSpring sprung floors finished with a Harlequin Cascade performance surface or hardwood surface. Harlequin Liberty LatchLoc sprung dance floor system with Harlequin Studio dance surface in a temporary space.

Solution

For the temporary classrooms, Harlequin's Liberty LatchLoc™ sprung dance floor panel system was the ideal solution. The floating floor does not need to be affixed to the subfloor and would do no damage to the existing classroom space. Modular panels are secured into place using a 'one turn of the key' latch and lock mechanism, making it quick and easy to install, remove or reconfigure.

When construction of the school's permanent home was finally completed, Harlequin WoodSpring®, was selected for installation in all of the studios. A modern interpretation of traditional 'basket weave', WoodSpring is a professional sprung floor system designed specifically for dance. It is specially constructed to ensure proper energy return, shock absorption and resilience in order to help protect students from injuries. The sprung floors were finished with a Harlequin Cascade™ performance surface in the smaller studios and a maple hardwood surface was chosen for the large performance studio.

“From outfitting our first class to flexible flooring for site-specific performances, Liberty panels have grown with us every step of the way”

— Jodie Gates,
Vice Dean and Artistic Director

USC Kaufman

Glorya Kaufman School of Dance



Photo: Ema Peter

Result

The University of Southern California and the USC Kaufman School of Dance have built a home for dance and performance that has become an emerging hub of dance for students, faculty, visiting dance companies and professionals from all over the world.