ABSTRACT

This study considers the ways and to what extent the University Cultural Centre Hall of the National University of Singapore, fulfills the acoustical performance demands that are placed upon it. With the growing art scenes in Singapore, it is crucial for this hall to meet the city’s needs for a venue capable of accommodating large-scale performances and their audiences. The Hall is symmetrical around the centerline and has two balconies located above the main floor. The basic shape resembles the typical proscenium theatre.

In this study, a review of literature was first done to determine various acoustical criteria for concert halls and best settings for orchestral music. This is followed by acoustic evaluation of the hall in four categories: Background noise measurements, Reverberation time determination, inspection of the hall’s architectural design, and collection of subjective views of the hall’s performance using surveys and interviews among audiences and musicians.

The overall results seem to suggest that the hall acoustic settings and designs are more for theatre and speech use. For unamplified music performances such as those by a choir, band or orchestra, recommendations are given under respective categories to facilitate the ideal concert configuration. Only good acoustic settings can make an art form becomes alive in the hearts of both audiences and artists.