



# Sonata Studio Absorbers

Superb new school studio suite improved even further with Sonata absorbers



Canon Slade School is a designated Performing Arts College situated in Bolton just north of Manchester. Luke Harrison, their Performing Arts Technician has used his expertise in audio and acoustics to redevelop the studio facilities used by both GCSE and A-level students and ultimately for public use.

Over the past year, Mr Harrison has put together a studio that would put many small professional facilities to shame, making the most of the resources available to him. Mr Harrison is of course a graduate of the school of acoustics at Salford University so he knows a thing or two about studio design.

The facility consists of a recording studio with an adjacent control room built into an imposing Georgian sandstone gatehouse in front of the school, the classical exterior belies the sophisticated installation within. Mr Harrison has rearranged the control room to make much better use of the limited space available, allowing students his to fully understand audio production. Once the furniture and equipment was organised, Mr Harrison turned to local experts and professional acousticians, Sound Reduction Systems for advice and solutions to control the reverberation. Coincidentally the technical team at SRS are also alumni of the school of acoustics at Salford.

Recording studios need to have particularly 'neutral acoustics' to avoid colouration of the final mix, Mr Harrison was concerned that the hard surface finishes within the control room would lead to flutter echoes and distinctive room modes that would spoil the efforts of his students. The solution from SRS was their range of high performance Sonata acoustic absorbers that could control reverberation and yet be suitable and robust enough to withstand the rigorous school environment. Of particular interest to Mr Harrison and his colleagues was the novel design of the absorbers utilising acoustic foam rather than fibre based absorbers and the wide range of colours available to complement the existing décor of the control room.

Following a visit to the studio, Sonata Studio absorbers were supplied to Canon Slade School and installed in mirror positions around the control room to maximise distribution. Sonata Studio absorbers combine the established Sonata panel with a perforated metal mounting frame to improve low frequency performance whilst keeping installation simple and speedy. An added benefit is that the open space behind each panel is enclosed so that nothing can be stuffed behind them, an important consideration in a school.

Mr Harrison commented that *"the effect was immediate; the improvement allows my students and I to make the most of the facilities and has already been commented on by prospective pupils and their parents at a recent open evening. Our next project is to improve the acoustics of the school hall followed by the school chapel, we'll certainly be working with SRS again."*

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