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installation at St. Nicholas Eastern Serbian Orthodox Church:

As with any installation, a number of factors contribute to the final design and implementation of a sound system. In this case, speech intelligibility was the paramount factor for the performance of the sound system. The visual aesthetic was also of great importance and budget, as always, was a big issue.

The acoustics in the space leave much to be desired. The arched vault in the ceiling runs the length of the sanctuary and reflects acoustic energy back down into the center of the sanctuary, much like a parabolic dish reflects sound into a microphone on an NFL sideline.

We've installed systems in several difficult acoustic venues and this was no exception. It was alarming how much sound was being bounced into the center of the space. The difference in intelligibility between the seats near the walls and those in the center was so pronounced that it was as if they were in different venues. Whatever we did, we had to keep as much sound as possible off the ceiling. The back wall is a combination of brick and glass, so we also had to consider the reflection there.

We attended an A-Line Acoustics demo not far from our shop over the summer and we were impressed with their products, both sonically and from a practicality standpoint. A-Line's ELI system came to mind immediately as we designed the system for this church. Because we were dealing with a speech only situation, we didn't need a large extended low frequency component and we didn't need to generate high

SPL (although the ELI rig will get quite loud!). What we needed was a small, full range speaker with well defined vertical pattern control. We thought an ELI rig might be a viable solution, but had only heard one in an outdoor space at the demo and we didn't really know how it would perform in this quirky space.

We called A-line and told them about our ideas for the design and they were generous enough to have a portable ELI rig sent to us to try out in the venue. We set the loaner rig up in the church for a Sunday service and it performed very nicely. Once we knew that an ELI system would provide the performance we were after, we started talking with Tony and Mark about some venue specific installation issues. In order to keep the installation as visually unobtrusive as possible, we wanted to Eliminate separate subwoofers from the system. Since the subs normally house the amplifiers, this was a bit of an issue. That said, Tony took all of our needs and desires into consideration and came up with a series of design modifications that met all of our criteria and exceeded our expectations for performance and ease of installation. This is truly a custom rig, specifically designed for a difficult space. It performs unbelievably well, it looks great, the budget remained intact and the clients couldn't be happier. We consider our first installation of A-Line Acoustics products a huge success. There is no question that we will turn to A-Line again in the future.



A-Line Acoustics
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