

## **ACOUSTICS2008/1364 Qualitative Standard for Symphonic Concert Environment**

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Qualitative Standard for Symphonic Concert Environment.

All acousticians strive to obtain a symphonic concert environment that will be well received by musicians, professional music critics and the general public. Currently, this environment corresponds to the reflective energy measurements found in what might be designated as the rectangular European or American Concert Hall of the late nineteenth century, such as the Grosser Musikvereinssaal in Vienna and Symphony Hall in Boston Massachusetts. It is well known that these measurements can be correlated to subjective musical judgments and that halls incorporating these measurements have been universally designated as having excellent environments for symphonic concerts. But how did these specific reflections become an acoustical standard. This paper presents a theory of how the rectangular European and American style concert hall became an acoustical standard at the beginning of the twentieth century and poses the question as to whether this standard is still applicable in the twenty first century?