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The Opryland Hotel Refurbishes Ballroom

The Presidential Ballroom in the Opryland Hotel, part of the Opryland complex in Nashville, TN, underwent an architectural and sound system upgrade, completing at the tail end of last year.

The 140 x 200-foot Presidential Ballroom is one of the Convention Center's extensive pre-function, boardroom, meeting and exhibit facilities that include the Magnolia, Governor's, Tennessee and Delta ballrooms. The refurb-



▲ The newly refurbished Opryland Hotel Presidential Ballroom included a sound system upgrade featuring 176 CMS12 Dual Concentric ceiling loudspeakers from Tannoy.

Going 'Live'

Scharff Weisberg recently designed and installed a complex audio system for the *Regis Live* (now called *Live with Regis and Kelly*) show. The system is set up to provide a permanent band mix position for the musical acts that perform on the live show.

Specific audio items of note included the new Allen & Heath ML 5000 mixer, Ashly 4.24 EQ and Summit tube compressors. "The band mixer has a tough job, which is the reason for the ML 5000," said Scharff Weisberg's systems engineer, Scott Widney. "In addition to doing the band monitor mix, the engineer must do the floor live sound mix and the broadcast music mix. The Allen & Heath's numerous outputs make this possible."

Additionally, the studio main sound system was enhanced with new EAW SB528R double 18-inch subwoofers and Crown K1 and K2 power amps. Regis' foldback system was also enhanced with new EAW JF 50s.

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ishing of the Presidential Ballroom is part of phased upgrade that began with the Tennessee Ballroom two years ago.

The architectural firm for the Presidential Ballroom renovation was Earl Swenson Assoc. in Nashville. Sound Technology Consultants, Inc., a full-service acoustics, sound, lighting and audiovisual systems design firm located in Alpine, CA, was responsible for the audio system design, which included ceiling loudspeakers from Tannoy and Crest amplifiers.

Installation of 176 Tannoy CMS12 Dual Concentric ceiling loudspeakers and cabling was by Southeastern Sound, Inc., also in Nashville, under the direction of Rick Redfern and Brian Cooke. Thirteen Crest CKS amplifiers drive the Tannoys. The system is under the ballroom's existing Media Matrix control.

"Selection of the Tannoy ceiling speakers," said Sound Technology Consultants, Inc. principal Vance Breshears, "was based on our use of Tannoys in the Tennessee Ballroom upgrade—which everyone loved—and our long-standing preference for the Tannoy product in this range: the CMS6s and CMS8s, as well as the 12-inch speakers we used for the Presidential Ballroom." The CMS12s were placed in existing speaker positions in the ballroom's 28-foot-high ceilings.

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