

Vienna Volksoper heralds new season with
all-new KV2 system

Vienna Volksoper, Vienna, Austria



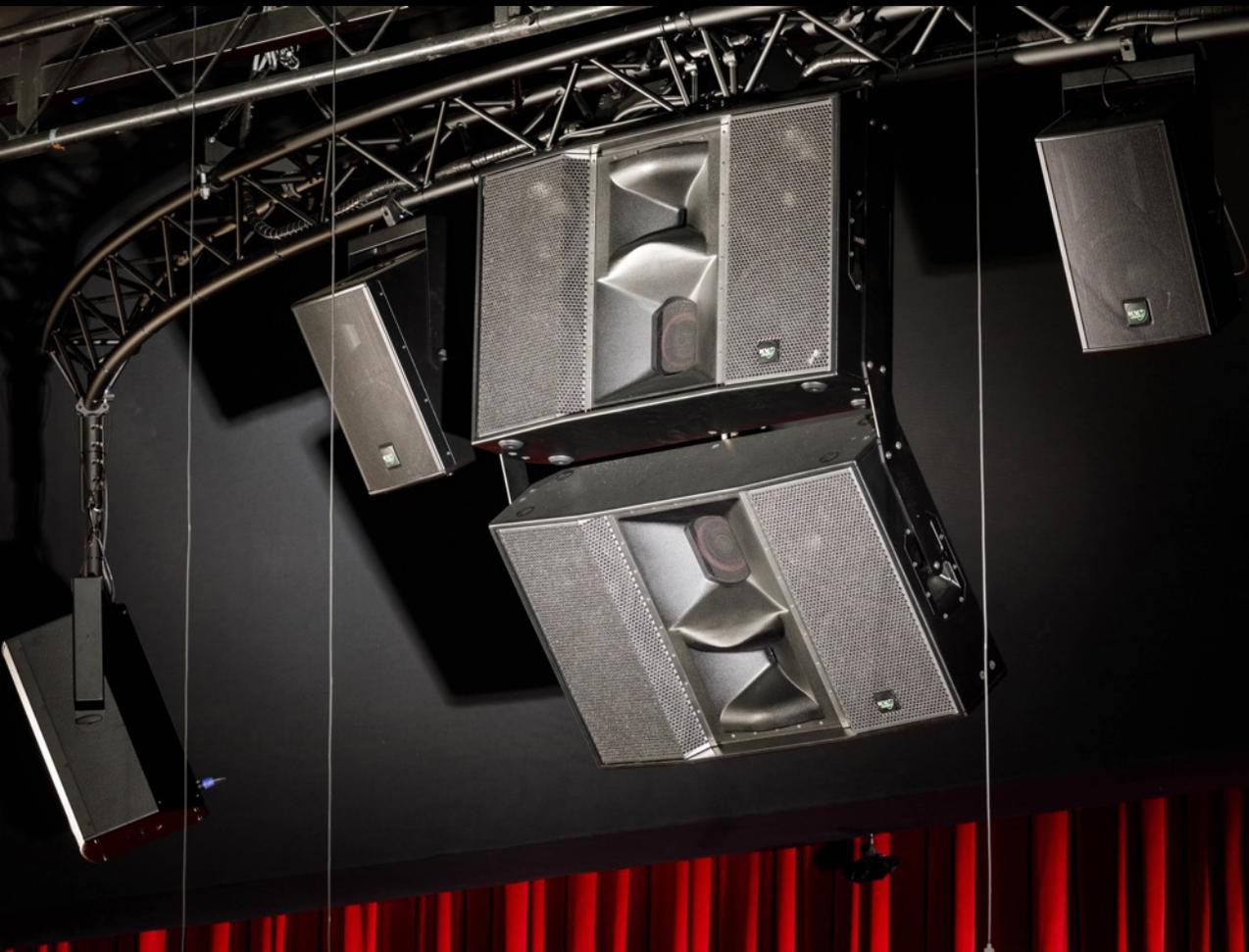
The People's Opera boasts sound system fit for a king



The Vienna Volksoper, or People's Opera, is Europe's leading operetta house and Vienna's largest theatre for opera, musicals, classical concerts and ballet. Indeed, Vienna Volksoper offers one of the most diverse musical programs in the country, ranging from Carmen to Kiss Me Kate, and The Flying Dutchman to Cabaret, as well as productions for schools, lots of local German operetta performances and much more besides.

The curtain went up on a new season accompanied by a brand new KV2 Audio sound system – the first ever to use KV2's new Control & Diagnostics Tool for remote system management and control.

Getting to the point...



The new sound system for the 1339-capacity venue was designed by Martin Lukesch, director of sound and media technology at Vienna Volksoper.

“My starting point for the new design was that it had to be able to fulfil the needs of all the different types of shows we stage and deliver the best possible audio experience for our audiences. My designs require point source loudspeakers, and KV2 makes excellent point source loudspeakers in a huge variety of sizes and formats. So yes, when we decided to renew the sound system at Volksoper, for me it was an easy choice!”

Martin Lukesch

Head of sound and media technology, Vienna Volksoper

Power to the people



The system at the Vienna Volksoper is actually many systems in one, with most of the equipment permanently installed. There is a main system (ESR215s and SL412s), a second proscenium system (ESD10s) for effects, the 'Voice of God' ESR212 effects system in the dome combined with 60 ESD5 surround speakers throughout the theatre, a stage effects system plus all of the subs, plus delays, frontfills and outfills.

"With these solutions, we can really make audiences feel completely involved the performance. If we wanted to make people believe they were experiencing an earthquake, we could. In fact, with the amount of power we've got, we could probably even create one!"

Martin Lukesch

Head of sound and media technology, Vienna Volksoper

Taking control



Volksooper Vienna is the first installation to utilise KV2's brand new diagnostic, monitoring and control tool, which adds an essential level of comfort and security when managing a large, complex system.

"We have 56 amplifiers in use full-time and five spare. They have to be accurately controlled and monitored, or we simply can't operate efficiently. KV2's solution allows us to monitor all amplifiers, drivers and speakers in real time, so any anomalies are instantly located and reported. It also enables me to configure and switch between different systems for different shows in virtually one click which makes my life much easier!"

Martin Lukesch

Head of sound and media technology, Vienna Volksooper

Bottom line



The venue has to be able to switch easily from a quiet show using only the small speakers to, say, a full-on rock musical that deploys all the subs. Lukesch also has a large number of mobile ESDs in every size to supplement the installed systems as required. Nothing has been left to chance, from the earth-shaking VHD4.21 subs beneath the auditorium to the ESR212 'Voice of God' effects system in the roof dome.

"I'm delighted with the new KV2 system at every level. We can literally create just about any sound scenario we want with unsurpassed audio quality. Our audiences deserve the best, and as far as I'm concerned, this is it."

Martin Lukesch

Head of sound and media technology, Vienna Volksoper

Wrap up



The challenge

- To deliver a high quality system capable of handling all types of musical scenario, from classical ballet and opera to high-octane rock musicals
- To monitor and control the system efficiently at all times
- To be able to switch quickly and easily between system designs given the extremely short time lapse between changeovers i.e. rehearsals every morning and performances every evening non-stop during the season

The solution

- A powerful KV2 point source design that essentially comprises several systems in one, powered by KV2's new D Series amplifiers with built-in control and diagnostics
- Custom mounts ensure complete isolation of all the loudspeakers from the building structure and perfect positioning

Main system:

- 6 x ESR215S (proscenium)
- 2 x SL412 + 2 x ESD12 (center)
- 3 x ESD12 + 4 x ESD5 (delay)

Effects:

- 12 x ESD10 (proscenium)
- 2 x ESR212 ('Voice of God')
- 60 x ESD5 (surround and room simulation)
- 6 x ESR212 + 6 x ESD10 (stage effects)

Subs:

- 4 x VHD4.21
- 6 x VHD2.18