

St Oswald's Hall, Edinburgh

Stage Lighting

The Lighting System at St Oswald's Hall was installed when the Hall was renovated in the early 1990s. The Houselights are dimmable fluorescents and as such are not suited to theatrical performances. Some success can be achieved by using around 4kW of floodlight (for instance from 2 of the venue's 4-way Coda battens) directed at the opposite wall and ceiling from the side lighting bars.

At the time of writing the Lighting is kept in a particular rig for School use. It must be returned to precisely this rig (complete with focus) at the end of a hire.

Lighting Positions

There are 4 main positions FOH. Each bar has only 5 circuits which is quite restrictive as running extra cables in this venue can be messy. The two bars above the main auditorium space are on winches however at the time of writing the one closest to the stage has mis-matched ropes so the bar does not sit horizontal when flown out to its working height. The acceptable loading of these bars is unknown. It is possible to run vertical booms from the side lighting bars down to the ground, giving a good front sidelight angle for bashing colour onto the stage. However standard Trilite trussing will not fit between the bar and the wall by about ½in so it's best to use straight scaffolding.

Overstage there are 2 internally wired bars. The position of the second of these bars is of no real use for anything but backlight as it's too far upstage. Luckily there are other bars in the grid system which are of more use for lighting positions. There are some circuits available on the floor for practical lights.

The 4 Coda Cyc battens are usually mounted on one of the unwired grid bars and are daisy-chained together. A 4-way 15A multicore supplies the first batten in the chain from the DIP sockets Upstage Right.

Luminaires

At the time of writing the venue has the following:

- 4 x Strand Cantata 18/32
- 8 x Strand Prelude 16/30
- 4 x Strand Prelude 28/40
- 9 x Strand Prelude F
- 4 x Strand Prelude PC (maybe 5?)
- 4 x Strand Coda 500/4

There are around 4 barndoors to suit Prelude luminaires. At the time of writing there were colour frames for all luminaires.

Control/Dimming

The Lighting Control point is in the Gallery at the rear of the Hall. The venue lighting desk is a Strand Action 24 single-preset memory (99 cues max) desk. This outputs D54 which is fed into a Strand 24-way F/D Demux box which in turn feeds the Dimmer Racks with analogue signals.

There are 4 Strand Tempus racks at the Lighting Control point. Each has six channels which are individually rated at 10A and have dual 15A sockets. The 15A patch bays are limited in that the FOH circuits will reach only Dimmer Racks 3 & 4 and the onstage circuits will reach only Dimmer Racks 1 & 2. The Dimmer Racks are protected by Circuit Breakers which I think are rated around 40A.

The incoming mains supply is 200A 3-phase and is quite under-utilised so a competent electrician could safely wire in a 63A 3-phase outlet which (with suitable protection such as circuit breaker and RCD) could supply further Dimmer Racks.

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