

Proceedings of the Institute of Acoustics

NOISE CONTROL IN EDUCATIONAL SPACES - MUSIC PRACTICE ROOMS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This lecture will describe the construction and installation of three grades of music practice rooms together with their desired and achieved acoustic performance and some of the on site realities.

2. BACKGROUND

Since the change in school regulations there has been an understandable sense of competition between schools to attract scholars. Apart from the mainstream subjects, attractions have needed to include the support curriculum's and music has been amongst a growing group of such subjects.

The teaching experience is often present amongst existing staff but, if not, specialists are available for part time attachment.

However, with very few exceptions, appropriate performance or practice facilities are not available and makeshift arrangements may need to be shared.

To alleviate this situation, music practice rooms of various grades to meet various budgets are being evolved. Many of these will be constructed from traditional builders work materials, hopefully under the guidance of an experienced acoustic consultant.

In contrast, many will be bought in as packaged assemblies from established hardware suppliers against specific cost and performance ratings. Needless to say, these latter two do usually conflict! Often complete furnishings, fittings and instrument storage can form a complimentary part of a well co-ordinated contract.

3. SOME SOLUTIONS

The lecture will cover three grades of such a package taken from installations at:-

- (1) Emanuel School, Battersea
- (2) Kings College, London
- (3) Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester

