

Church Production

APRIL 2008

Magazine

**NORTHLAND, A CHURCH DISTRIBUTED,
LONGWOOD, FLORIDA**
A satellite church gets a new home

**DIRECTING VIDEO:
TECHNIQUES FOR
MULTI-CAMERA DIRECTION**

FLAT PANEL MONITORS

WFX - WORSHIP FACILITIES CONFERENCE & EXPO SHOW ISSUE!



\$4.95

HME
DX200-series Wireless Intercom



APHEX
230 Master Voice Channel



SANYO
PLC-XL50 LCD Projector



ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS



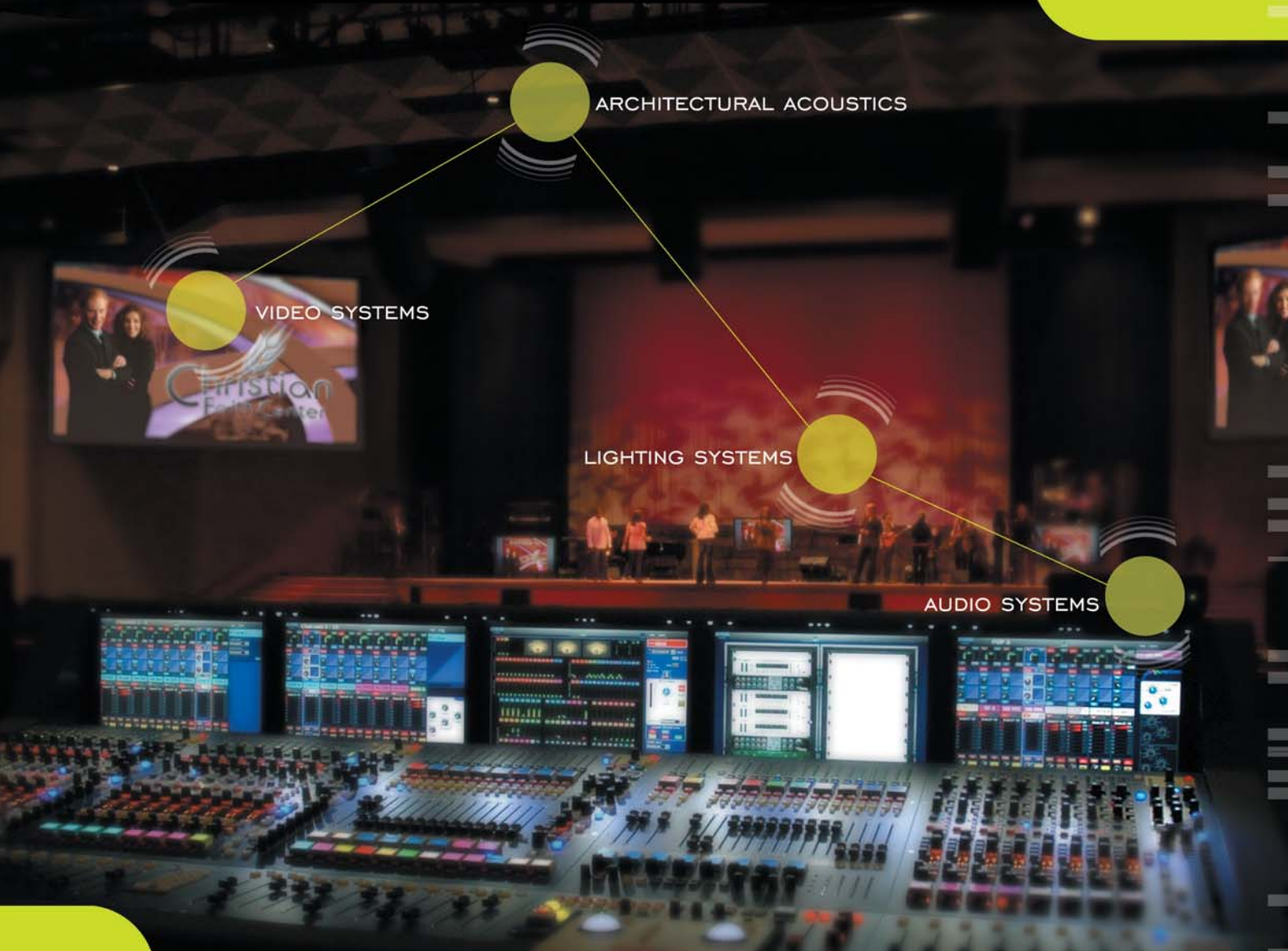
VIDEO SYSTEMS



LIGHTING SYSTEMS



AUDIO SYSTEMS



INTEGRATING
SIGHT • SOUND • WORSHIP

ACOUSTICS • AUDIO • LIGHTING • VIDEO



M G A

MICHAEL GARRISON ASSOCIATES

255 W. FALLBROOK AVE., SUITE 101 | FRESNO, CA. 93711 | SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
P: (ENG)559.434.7000 (ESP)559.304.7012 | F: 559.434.7001 | WWW.MGA.US.COM

The HME base station . . . has the ability to connect into an analog wired intercom system, such as a ClearCom system. Each station/headset has the option of talking to the entire intercom configuration, or isolating the communications to just the HME system.



The HME DX200 intercom system was tested at Triangle Community Church's production of *Scrooge* in December 2007, directed by Natalie Snapp, shown here discussing details with Stage Manager Nathaniel Hinds, who used the HME wireless beltback for the production.

The system consisted of a DX200 base station; three BP200 beltback systems; and two WH200 headsets. The WH200 headsets have the radio system built into the headsets, eliminating the need for a beltback and the accompanying wire to the headset. The base unit was used by the lighting tech; the beltbacks and headsets were used by the stage manager; stage hands; spotlight operator; and audio tech. Each base station can support up to 15 beltbacks/headsets; if more than 15 are needed, multiple base stations can be utilized. Up to four of the beltbacks/headsets can transmit at one time.

Setup of the system was quite easy. Each beltback or headset needed to be registered with the base station (they can't communicate without doing so), which provides for more secure communications and

eliminates the possibility of interference from others using a similar system nearby (as you would have with unlicensed, consumer-grade, two-way radios). Once registered, the base station and all headsets can communicate with each other.

The HME base station also has the ability to connect into an analog wired intercom system, such as a ClearCom system. Each station/headset has the option of talking to the entire intercom configuration, or isolating the communications to just the HME system. Each beltback/headset can be configured in a push-to-talk mode, or a hands-free mode.

Each unit can have their microphone gain and headphone volume adjusted independently, ensuring that the user can hear everyone, and everyone can hear them, without a problem. For the beltbacks and headsets, all took the same model of rechargeable battery, simplifying battery logistics. The batteries charged quickly, and the charging system can charge four batteries at a time. Battery life was not a problem—one charge got us easily through an entire evening's usage. HME states that you can expect about 20 hours of use when in push-to-talk mode.

radios we normally would use. There was a very slight background noise, but nothing objectionable or distracting. The headsets were very comfortable, and none of us reported any fatigue from wearing the units for several hours at a time.

Range of the wireless units was excellent—there was never an issue of drop-outs while the headsets remained in the building. However, when a stage hand would go outside to take a short-cut from one side of the stage to the other, the headset would lose communications as soon as the door shut behind him. We attributed this to the building being a steel building, and the shell of the building essentially routing all transmissions trying to pass through its skin to earth ground. Once an exterior door was opened even as little as an inch, communications resumed.

When a headset loses connection with the base station, you aren't left wondering what's happening—the headset itself starts giving you an audible warning about being out of range. Additionally, audible warnings are given if you are trying to increase the volume of the headset beyond the maximum of its range.

MSRP OF THE COMPONENTS USED FOR THE REVIEW

1 DX200 base station:	\$3,351
4 G27111 single-muff headsets (\$160 ea):	\$640
3 BP200 beltbacks (\$739 ea):	\$2,217
2 WH200 headsets (\$764 ea):	\$1,528
1 battery charger:	\$597
Total MSRP, as configured:	\$8,333



That were a present
far too small.

That were a present
far too small.

GARDENDALE • MT. VERNON UNITED METHODIST
GARDENDALE, ALABAMA

ALL PRO SOUND

AUDIO • VIDEO • LIGHTING SOLUTIONS

DESIGN. BUILD. PERFORM.

Installed Systems 1-800-925-9822 • www.allprosound.com • Equipment Sales 1-800-925-5776

There was what appeared initially to be one drawback to the headset system (not the backpack system), which is a set of very bright status lights at both the end of the microphone boom and on the head-band. The light at the end of the boom is to indicate when the unit is in transmit mode. This seemed unfortunate, as stage-

hands should be invisible, and attaching "anti-collision lights" to their heads defeats this concept. We made a point of giving the backpack units to those most likely to need to go on stage. What we learned after the fact from HME is that these status lights can indeed be disabled by holding down the "IC2" button while



QUICK-LINKS

HME
 (800) 848-4468 or (858) 535-6060
www.hme.com

powering up the unit. Instructions on this capability come with the instruction sheet when you buy one of the headsets, which weren't included in our evaluation system. HME reports that these instructions will be added to the overall system manual on a future revision of that manual.

We appreciated the backpack construction—the pouch that the backpacks are held in are made of a rubber-like material with no sharp edges. Very comfortable and extremely light. Controls were intuitive and easy to use. The headsets that accompanied the backpacks were very comfortable, but could only be worn over the left ear. HME reports that new headsets are being made available that can be worn on either side of the head.

However, these are minor complaints. We loved the functionality and the excellent audio quality of the headsets. There was never a problem of the tech crew understanding the stage manager, even when he was whispering. And that, my friends, is the whole point. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the system, and it'll be high on my list of equipment for my church's next sanctuary.

Jim Kumorek is the web editor/director of online operations for Production Media Inc., and the lighting director for Scrooge. Nathaniel Hinds is an engineering student at North Carolina State University and was the stage manager for Scrooge.



Barbizon – Your Answer to Lighting for Worship.

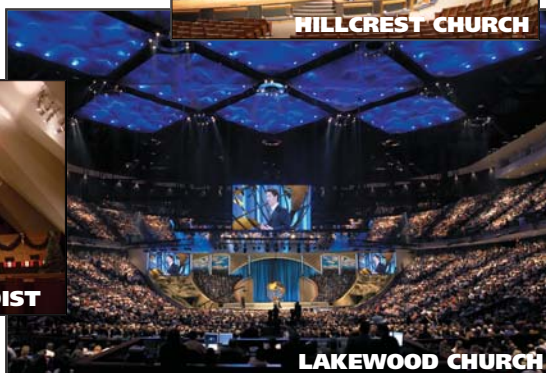
We specialize in lighting for houses of worship seating 10 - 10,000 plus. While some companies try to do it all, Barbizon will listen to your needs and deliver a lighting system that integrates your budget with your expectations. We focus on the technical details so you can deliver the message.



HILLCREST CHURCH



FIRST UNITED METHODIST



LAKWOOD CHURCH

BARBIZON
 LIGHTING COMPANY

THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

LIGHTING SYSTEMS FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP
 ASSEMBLY | BROADCAST | ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRATION

www.barbizon.com | 866.502.2724

ATLANTA • BOSTON • CHARLOTTE • CHICAGO • DALLAS • DENVER • LONDON
 MIAMI • NEW YORK • ORLANDO • PHOENIX • WASHINGTON, D.C.