

Anatolia and the Arts



Anatolia
bridges

Anatolia's Heritage

In addition to including the study of drama in the original 19th century curriculum, Anatolia's founders encouraged drama productions with student actors as an integral part of school life. This tradition has remained strong throughout the years and is an aspect of school life that continues to distinguish Anatolia College today. Three student drama clubs at the junior and senior high school level, one at the college level, and an alumni drama club, each produce one or more plays during the course of the school year.



The school's traditions in musical education and performance are equally strong - there was an Anatolia orchestra in Marsovan, and today Anatolia's numerous student and alumni instrumental and choral ensembles rank among the country's best-known groups. The Anatolia Chorale had the honor of performing both on the Akropolis for the Millennium celebration, and at the Athens 2004 Olympics; the Alumni Chorale performs throughout Greece and Europe, at festivals and in performances of the major classical composers.



Creating a Contemporary Performance Hall



The renovated Performance Hall will allow Anatolia to stage high quality theatrical and musical performances and offer to more students the opportunity to participate in these time-honored extracurricular activities. The flexibility provided by the planned design will also allow the stage to be arranged according to the needs of the particular events and audiences giving performing groups the opportunity to experiment with a variety of performance approaches and the school the opportunity to broaden the range of conferences and other events it can organize or host.



There are a number of other performance and conference events which the renovated building will be capable of hosting, including:

- Visiting theatrical troupes from other schools, cities, and even countries both during and after school hours, for school audiences as well the general public
- Visiting speakers, panels, and conferences, both for the high school and for ACT
- Forensics events, as well as the Greek Oral Interpretation Tournament
- The European Youth Parliament for Northern Greece and Model United Nations (MUN) sessions led by Anatolia. The renovated hall could serve to host such important gatherings, which often draw students from the entire region
- Performances by the nationally-recognized Anatolia Chorale, and by other clubs and school groups such as the Multimedia Club, the Chamber Orchestra, the Greek Dance Club, and the Guitar Club

The Raphael Hall Renovation

The renovation of the existing Raphael Hall will significantly upgrade the existing building's structural, functional and aesthetic qualities transforming it into a contemporary performance hall for use by student and alumni theatrical and music groups. The hall would also host school assemblies, conferences, and other public events some currently ongoing and sorely needing a home and others the Anatolia schools have long been wanting to undertake.

Renovation will achieve the following:

Increase capacity in the main hall to 300 seats

- Relocate the stage to one of the building's long sides
- Demolish the existing balcony, which does not meet new safety codes
- Provide a front extension with foyer - box office - public bathrooms
- Create a backstage area through a second extension
- Allow for a workshop-scenery storage area below the main stage
- Equip the facility with new mechanical, electrical, and heating-cooling systems
- Increase overall area to almost 1,000 square meters

More specifically, the renovation foresees:

Stage and Auditorium alterations

- Reorganization of the main hall, with the stage re-located to provide viewers maximum visual contact at minimum distance
- Raising the stage height (0.8 m.) to increase visibility
- Construction of a modular stage to permit three basic configurations
- Acoustic upgrading through use of ceiling reflectors and wall dampeners
- Elevating the seats in the back rows with a modular movable, configurable deck
- Control room for lights, sound, and projection at the rear of the auditorium

Eastern extension, containing:

- Entrance
- Box-office
- Cloakroom
- Foyer
- Public lavatories

Western extension, containing:

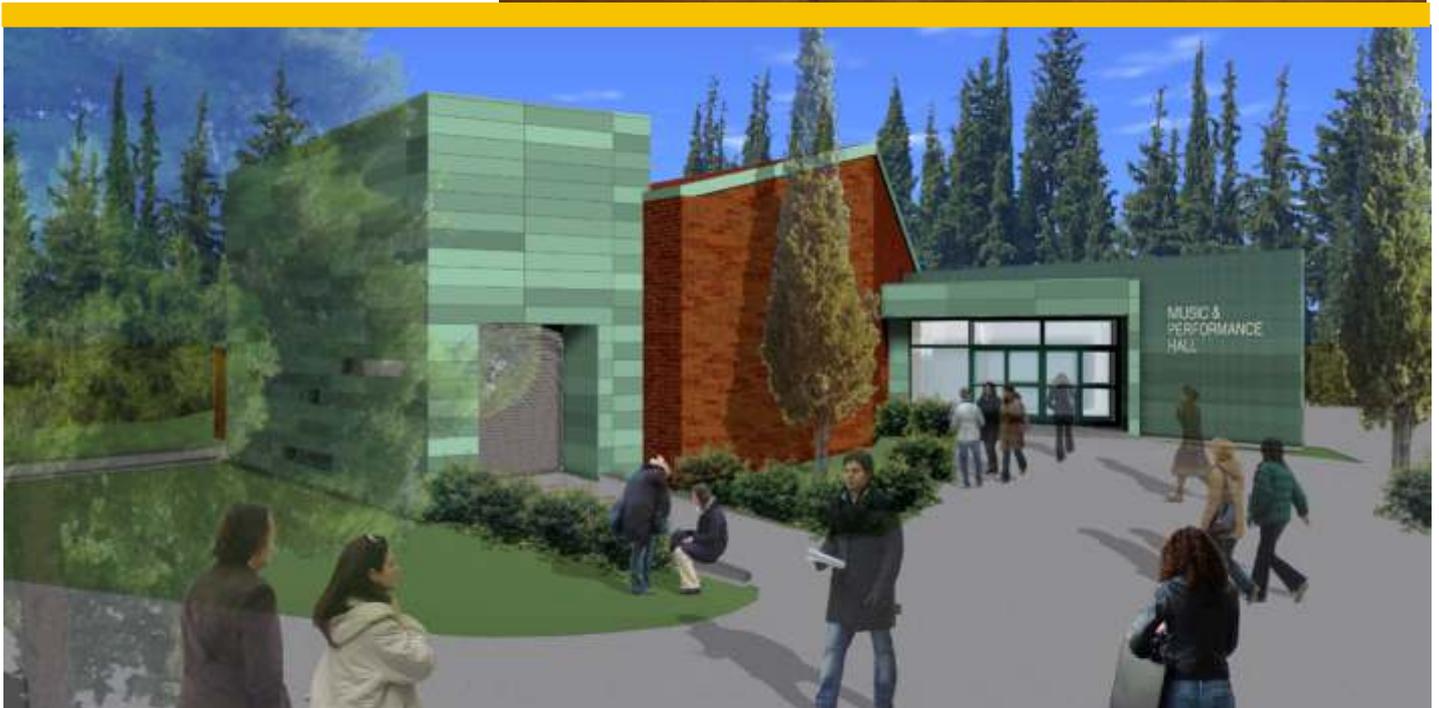
- Changing rooms
- Make-up tables
- Performers' bathrooms & lockers
- Basement extension & utilization
- Scenery construction workshop and storage area, connected with backstage by a service elevator
- New mechanical/electrical installations and heating-cooling units
- New general storage area

Modernization of the building's interior and exterior

- Existing structure to be clad in brick
- Eastern and western extensions to be clad in copper sheeting

Meaningful Impact

Two alumni clubs-both of which represent a continuation of interests which alumni first developed while at Anatolia -would also use the Performing Arts Hall upon occasion: the Alumni Drama Club and the Alumni Chorale, one of Thessaloniki's most highly-regarded mixed choruses.



A renovated performing arts facility will become the extracurricular activities center for a school that pioneered in Greece the idea that activities like drama, music, debate, and youth congresses play a vital role in the education of students.

