

NETWORK AUDIO & CONTROL INSTALLATION

York Minster

Network Audio and Control for the Largest Gothic Cathedral in Northern Europe

📍 York, England

The majestic Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York, England, commonly known as [York Minster](#), is one of the largest of its kind in Northern Europe. The imposing and awe-inspiring Gothic structure is a beacon of religious and architectural magnificence and has been a beloved fixture of the York skyline for centuries. As part of an ongoing refurbishment project, the church leaders commissioned a new audio system for installation throughout the Minster, to enhance the visitor experience and elevate the spiritual atmosphere of the church interior.



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Phil Goldsworthy
Engineer, Wigwam

Challenges

Audio Clarity is Key

The project was complex in its need for audio clarity with both spoken word and music while being able to accommodate a wide variety of uses throughout the building, often with multiple events taking place simultaneously. Q-SYS was up to this task and was deployed to meet the cathedral's network audio and control requirements. The church leaders worked alongside system integrator Wigwam, part of the SSE Audio group, to create the solution. "Q-SYS has become our go-to solution for network audio, video and control installations," explained Phil Goldsworthy, Engineer at [Wigwam](#). "We've built a wealth of knowledge on the Q-SYS Platform having used it in wide a range of projects, from bars and restaurants to large sports stadiums. We've also successfully deployed it at Manchester Cathedral, where the requirements were very similar to that of York Minster."



Solutions

Networked Audio and Control

The epicenter of this system was a Q-SYS Core 510i processor (now available as the updated [Q-SYS Core 610](#)), which manages centralized network audio and control processing. Q-SYS features a robust, software-based paging platform that enables zone paging throughout the cathedral, without the need for additional processing hardware. The integrator also took advantage of the comprehensive monitoring capabilities offered by Q-SYS. For example, if a fault occurs, such as a failed amplifier channel, the remote-based support staff will instantly receive an email notification. They can then access the Core remotely (via VPN) and analyze the issue before dispatching an engineer, which helps reduce overall support costs.

Ease of use was another key requirement. The integrator deployed [Q-SYS Touch Screen Controllers](#) featuring custom-built [user control interfaces](#) (UCI) that allow church staff and volunteers to intuitively route audio inputs (such as microphones and audio tracks), mute/unmute audio zones and access a number of presets that are programmed for configurations that support common services and events held in the church. The system also has EQ settings stored for the ministerial team that can be assigned to any microphone, ensuring optimum audio clarity at all times.

“Q-SYS provides an enormous amount of flexibility, and it really was the perfect choice for this project,” said Phil Goldsworthy. “It handles a lot of processing with minimal hardware, and it delivers a fantastic user experience. York Minster is absolutely delighted with their Q-SYS system.”



Q-SYS is a globally recognized manufacturer of audio, video and control (AV&C) solutions for huddle rooms to stadiums—and everything in between. Our systems make it easy for your team to design and integrate flexible, scalable solutions and deliver the native IT integration and standards-based technology your customers expect.

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