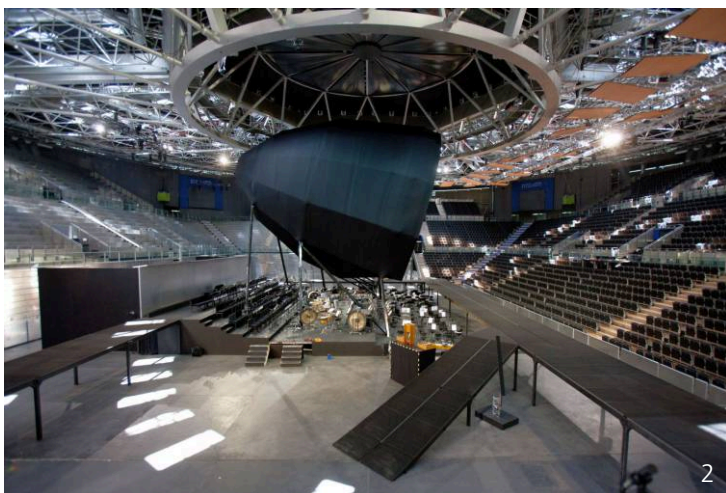


SAINT FRANÇOIS D'ASSISE, MADRID, SPAIN

PROJECT. Under the guidance of their artistic director Gerard Mortier, the Teatro Real presented the Messiaen opera St. Francois d'Assise in July 2011. The production from the Ruhrtriennale, specifically from the Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum, was restaged featuring a 16-meter high cone as the central stage set element. Since the standard opera stage proved to be too small for assembling the cone as well as for the general ambience, the Madrid Arena was temporarily converted into an event venue for five performances with an audience of approximately 4,300 each.

The large orchestra and the choir with 150 singers were positioned below and around the cone. The opera singers walked on metallic footbridges framing the cone that was installed in the center of the arena.

ACOUSTICS. For the purpose of turning the existing, strongly attenuated acoustics into ideal acoustics for a large, contemporary opera performance, both traditional acoustical measures and a room enhancement system were planned and implemented. By means of suspended reflector panels above the audience area, advantageous sound-reflecting surfaces were added. Any disturbing focusing of sound was eliminated by the large curtains installed. In addition, the electro-acoustic room enhancement system Vivace created a good sound impression and an impressive ambience.



ORGANIZER

Teatro Real, Madrid

EVENT EQUIPMENT

Neumann & Müller GmbH, Munich

PROJECT DATA

Performances	July 2011
Seating capacity	4,300

SERVICES RENDERED

Room acoustics, electroacoustics, building acoustics, electro-acoustic room enhancement system
 Planning, status evaluation, simulations, fine-tuning of Vivace system, support during events

1 Stage with orchestra pit and reflector panels

2 Lateral view of the stage set

3 Impressions of the opera performance

Pictures: Michael Ebert