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The ELCA stage/set in Ford Field.



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1. One of the NEXO STM array sets flying high at Ford Field. 2. Gary Gand (left) and Adam Rosenthal of GCS at front of house. 3. One of the stacks of 36 STM Subs. 4. Audio power courtesy of NX4x4 amplifiers/controllers. 5. Dr. Adam Hill at a Yamaha CL5 in monitorworld.

Under the Dome

Serious reinforcement for multiple acts in a tough environment. *by Live Sound Staff*

GAND CONCERT SOUND (Elk Grove Village, IL), a.k.a., “The NEXO Guys,” lived up to its nickname and then some in deploying a large-scale rig for the Tri-Annual ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) festival at Ford Field, the 65,000-capacity multi-purpose indoor stadium in downtown Detroit.

GCS president Gary Gand and his team, in conjunction with technical marketing group specialist Mark Rush of Yamaha Pro Audio, flew NEXO STM line arrays to deliver highly intelligible and coherent sound reinforcement to more than 40,000 assembling for diverse live programs on several consecutive nights. The advanced sound design utilized two main arrays flown at left and right, each comprised of 18 STM M46 Main elements joined by 18 STM B112 Bass elements.

Side and down fill needs were met with arrays of STM M28 Omni modules offering wider dispersion. Added low-end energy came from 36 STM Subs on the ground. All loudspeakers were driven by 38 NX4x4 amplifiers/controllers. Thunder Audio (Livonia, MI) also provided two arrays of NEXO GEO-T modules to reach the furthest regions of the coverage area, which had thousands of seats on the floor in addition to grandstands and boxes on three sides of the dome.

Four Yamaha CL5 digital consoles were devoted to front of house and monitors. A Yamaha CL1 with Lake MY16 cards summed all FOH consoles and satellite live and DJ stages, joined by a Rio1608-D and four Rio3224-D stage boxes. These were key components in creating one of the largest Audinate Dante networks to date.

GCS enjoys a long-standing relationship with ELCA, premiering the first arena-sized GEO-T system in 2002 for a festival at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, and has been chosen to serve all of the organization’s festivals – held in domes around the USA – ever since.

“From spoken word to whispers to acoustic duos, as well as the 12-piece house band, earth-shaking DJs, pounding metal bands, and gospel choirs, the STM system sailed right through the challenges, which was particularly impressive in a venue of this scale,” Gand notes. ELCA director Heidi Hagstrom adds, succinctly: “The sound was awesome.” ■