



Armstrong Wins 2026 CISCA Award for Acoustical Excellence At Phillips Academy John Barry Performance Hall

LANCASTER, Pa. (April 23, 2026) Armstrong World Industries, Inc. has been honored with the 2026 CISCA Construction Excellence Award in the Manufacturers' Category for its technical achievement on the John Barry Performance Hall at Phillips Academy's Falls Music Center in Andover, MA. Presented by the Ceilings & Interior Systems Construction Association (CISCA), the award recognizes the company's leadership in acoustical engineering and its ability to deliver complex, high-performance ceiling and wall solutions through integrated collaboration.

The award-winning project underscores the capabilities of Armstrong in delivering high-performance acoustic environments for complex architectural applications. Serving as a 238-seat multi-purpose rehearsal and performance space, the hall required a ceiling solution engineered to precisely reflect and scatter sound. Armstrong achieved this by engineering five undulating ceiling ribbons using custom CastWorks™ Glass Fiber Reinforced Gypsum (GRG). The panels were manufactured at a 1/2" thickness, significantly denser than industry standards, to precisely reflect and scatter sound, enhancing clarity for performers and audiences alike.

The project also highlights the impact of Armstrong ProjectWorks® design and preconstruction services. By engaging early with the project's architect, ARC (Architectural Resources Cambridge), installing contractor, T.J. McCartney, Inc., and acousticians at Kirkegaard, Armstrong leveraged 3D modeling and prefabrication strategies to translate a complex, puzzle-like design into a constructable solution using just sixteen master molds. This approach enabled the project to remain on budget while meeting acoustic and aesthetic requirements.

"Even with all the detailed curves, bevels and angles, challenges were solved in pre-construction, and accurate shop drawings ensured we had everything ready," said Jessica Blanco, assistant project manager, T.J. McCartney. "We didn't have to do anything twice on the job site. We met our timeline, budget and it looks awesome."

The hall's first concerts occurred in February 2025, receiving high marks from performers and audiences. The positive reception affirmed the success of the project team's collaborative approach, delivering an environment that meets the highest standards for both performance and listening.

"We're all over the moon about this performance space," said Maria McMorran, project architect, ARC. "What we achieved was a product of synergy between the teams and Armstrong's early involvement. The result has been rewarding for students, teachers, and performers."

About Armstrong World Industries

Armstrong World Industries, Inc. (AWI) is an Americas leader in the design and manufacture of innovative interior and exterior architectural applications including ceilings, specialty walls and exterior metal solutions. For more than 165 years, Armstrong has delivered products and capabilities that enable architects, designers and contractors to transform building design and construction with elevated aesthetics, acoustics and sustainable attributes. With \$1.6 billion in revenue in 2025, AWI has approximately 4,000 employees and a manufacturing network of 24 facilities, plus seven facilities dedicated to its WAVE joint venture. In 2025 and 2026, Armstrong's extensive environmental efforts earned it the designation as one of [America's Greenest Companies by Newsweek](#).

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