

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the Leo Beranek issue of *Acoustics Today*, and appreciated the write-up on concert hall acoustics, but I believe more should be said about the importance of Dr. Beranek's work on seat and audience sound-absorption. The importance of the use of area to replace number of seats in determining the sound-absorption of the audience was due to nearly all post WWII halls constructed up to that change having reverberation times considerably lower than predicted, causing unhappiness among the musicians and audiences.<sup>1</sup> Thus, a number of halls for which BBN consulted and for which Dr. Beranek's new data were applied were the pioneering halls (at least in North America) for which reverberation time measurements confirmed design goals and calculations. These included the Jerusalem Congress Hall/Binyanai HaOohmah, the Jacksonville Civic Auditorium, the Dartmouth Hopkins Center Spaulding Auditorium, and Butler University Cloughs Hall, Indianapolis.

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<sup>1</sup> Royal Festival Hall, London, is possibly the best example. See L. L. Beranek, *Concert Halls and Opera Houses, Music Acoustics and Architecture*, Springer-Verlag, New York, 2003, available from Acoustical Society of America, Woodbury, 245-248. Also discussed in L. L. Beranek (1960). "Audience and Seat Absorption in Large Halls," *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 32, 661-670.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your excellent fall 2014 edition of *Acoustics Today* in which you highlighted the life of Leo Beranek.

I would like to add to the chorus of reminiscences by telling of my unique view of Leo's impact on people's lives. Leo set a good example in the way he conducted his life, benefiting all whose paths lead to him. I see Leo's contributions as going beyond his technical achievements to the personal world.

Leo has always had a positive attitude. When he is with someone, they can feel that, at that very moment, they are the center of his attention. Leo cares about what people have to say. While efficient with his time, he remains focused on those he is interacting with. This of course is a sign of respect.

Leo once gave this advice in an ASA plenary lecture, saying "Be kind to young acousticians." I and many others have been the recipient of that kindness. Thanks, Leo, for your positive, friendly and respectful nature. You have given us a wonderful gift.

Sincerely,

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### Letters to the Editor

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**Obituary** | Floyd Dunn | 1924-2015  
*Continued from page 74*

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