

Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts at Jones Theater installs hearing loop system that substantially improves sound quality for hard of hearing

Signal delivers sound directly to hearing aids and cochlear implants

To improve the hearing experience of those with hearing aids and cochlear implants, the Westcliffe Center for the Performing Arts has installed an induction hearing loop system for the Jones Theater. The loop connects to a special amplifier in the sound system that transmits substantially clearer sound than a hearing device alone will receive in a public venue.

Denver-based Assist2Hear installed the system. Used in Europe for four decades, these systems are just now gaining widespread US acceptance, including such high-profile venues as the US House of Representatives. Hearing loop systems transmit a signal directly to telecoil (T-Coil) equipped hearing aids, which comprise most devices in the country, much like WiFi for laptops.

By consulting with one's audiologist, the user can have the T-coil enabled and optimized for loop listening, and learn how to activate it. For hearing aid users, no headset is required. Those without hearing aids can use special headsets.

Anne Relph, WCPA President, says, "The hearing loop is helping the hard of hearing rediscover the joys of being in a public setting. People who were avoiding events at the theater because they couldn't hear clearly now can again fully participate in their favorite social activities. This is important both to our current audiences and to those who may want to check us out in the future."

What is a hearing loop and how does it work?

Hearing Loops allow people who wear hearing aids to directly receive the sound from the church's PA system in their own hearing aids, much like Wi-Fi for laptops. To hear better, you will no longer have to pick up a separate listening device.

Europe has thousands of hearing loops in churches, cathedrals, and theaters. US installations are becoming more common.

Do my hearing aids work in a loop?

If you wear hearing instruments you will need to find out if they have this wireless receiver, called a T-coil or Telecoil, built in to benefit from the hearing loop in our church. The T-coil program is accessed by pushing a button on your hearing aid. This T-coil setting has to be activated before use. Please consult your audiologist to ensure your t-coils are properly adjusted.

Hearing loops improve hearing aids!

Digital hearing aids have significantly improved in the last decade, but they do not restore hearing to normal. Difficulties often remain when in challenging listening situations. Hearing loops help hearing aid users overcome this problem by broadcasting sound without background noise or reverberation.

For more information about the hearing loop system, visit the Assist2Hear website at assis2hear.com or contact Laura Hansen at 720-210-9653 or by email at lhansen@assist2hear.com