New Music Hall

VFTH

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The newest building on WKU's campus is striking just the right chord with musically inclined students.  Amy Bingham takes us inside Music Hall in this week's View from the Hill.  
In 2001, the National Association of Schools of Music identified WKU's music department as not having sufficient facilities.   But that's about to change with this weekend's opening of a three story, state of the art music facility.

"The biggest thing that we're so excited about is we've got facilities to help us recruit and also facilities that will allow our musicians to be the best they can be."   
 WKU Music Department Head Mitzi Groom is almost giddy with excitement now that moving day has finally arrived at the university's long-awaited Music Hall.  
"Changed architects twice, changed project manager three times, everytime we turned around there would be another delay."  
But patience is about to pay off big time when band and choral students see their new accomodations.  
"There are two large rehearsal halls, the instrumental hall is across from the choral hall with large commons in between."  
It's something the chorus hasn't had before.  
"When the current building, FAC was designed, they for some reason left out a choral rehearsal room."  
So through the years, a lot of sharing space has taken place.  
"They're just happy not to be rolling risers out and putting them back and having a place to sit for an hour and twenty minutes."  
The rehearsal halls are also equipped with the best acoustics possible.  
"We've got curtains to help fine tune it, acoustical panels all around, each room has a different need."  
The top floor of Music Hall, which houses office space and three performance libraries, can be accesssed from the bottom floor of FAC.   
While the music department, practice rooms and classrooms will remain at FAC, Music Hall will allow musicians the best possible environment to put their talent on display.  
"This is a really special thing for the choral department, they finally get to have a home."  
  
Music Hall also has plenty of storage areas for the Big Red Marching Band's instruments and uniforms.  The nine million dollar project, which includes renovations to FAC, was funded by a student fee for campus rebuilding.  A formal dedication will be held this spring.  With this week's View from the Hill, I'm Amy Bingham.  
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