

Royal Wedding: Westminster Abbey Upgrades AV System

Historic church's technology overhauled for Prince William's and Kate Middleton's big day.

Apr. 28, 2011 — by [Maxine Giza](#)

It's the wedding of the century and all eyes and ears will turn to Westminster Abbey on Friday, April 29, 2011 as Prince William and Kate Middleton tie the knot. Every minor detail must be carefully attended to, including the church's technology.



New speakers, induction loop and CCTV systems have been installed inside the landmark in time for the big day. Michael Hyland & Associates were given the task of designing a system, and Whitwam Ltd with the installation, that would ensure Westminster Abbey is perfectly outfitted for the occasion.

The audio portion of the upgrade includes 80 RCF compact CS 6940 2-way cardioid column loudspeakers, which were divided into 47 loudspeaker zones. There are Crestron touchscreens with presets that enable certain zones to be selected during different services. The display has a page that mimics the layout of Westminster Abbey.

The system was designed around a number of DSP units several equipment racks throughout the building. This was needed to localize cabling and avoid long runs. The DSPs are linked via a fiber network using HP ProCurve 2510/24 switches.

Upgrading the famed church's audio system was no easy task, given the high ceilings and large scale of the building. Also, careful planning had to be employed so as not to disrupt regular services and other events.

Photos: [Inside Westminster Abbey's Audio Makeover](#)

All seated areas of the building have induction loop coverage, while CCTV coverage has been included with the use of pan/tilt/zoom color cameras. For major events like the Royal Wedding, hired video monitors are used to provide better view for those sitting in side aisles.

The installation was finished before the Thanksgiving service, marking the 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I granting a Royal Charter to the Abbey.

What does it take to make a historic church suitable for royalty? Here is the rundown.

Equipment

- Two Yamaha DME64N digital mixing engines
- AD8HR microphone input modules
- DA824 line outputs
- Five remote equipment racks
- Crestron touch screens
- Crestron AV2 processor
- CCTV cameras
- 32 wired microphone circuits
- Six wireless lapel mics
- Two wireless handheld mics
- 47 zones of loudspeaker coverage
- HP ProCurve 2510/24 switches
- CobraNet digital audio channels.
- Paging mic
- 80 RCF compact CS 6940 2-way cardioid column loudspeakers

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