



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Manufacturer and Supplier
of Secondary Glazing
Selectaglaze Ltd.

selectaglaze™

Secondary Glazing

Hallé Orchestra



- Benefit:** Quieter
- Type:** Refurbishment
- Listing:** Grade II

After years of decay, a refurbishment of the former St. Peter’s Church has brought this historic Victorian Grade II Listed building back to life.

Located in Ancoats, a part of Manchester widely regarded as the world’s first industrial suburb, St. Peter’s is now fully operational as the home for the world renowned Hallé Orchestra and its associated Choirs. The refurbished church also provides facilities for small orchestral and choral public performances.

Sound tests revealed a problem internally with the clarity in the rehearsal space and potential noise outbreak. The lack of clarity within the church was affecting the members of the Orchestra’s ability to hear each other and play in ensemble. The solution was to provide sound reflecting surfaces close to the Orchestra, below the high nave ceiling

of the church and to reduce the reverberation of the space to an appropriate level. Sound reflecting ‘Sound Sails’ were installed using a series of pulleys, with no fixings to the structure, hence leaving the building untouched.

While the acoustics of a building and keeping the sound of the outside world at bay are essential to a performance venue, the effect of a ‘concert’ on the local residents must also be taken into account.





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Operators of such venues are obliged as part of a license to address issues of noise breakout but this can be particularly problematic with older buildings where ill fitting windows tend to be the norm.

Most single glazed windows reduce noise ingress and egress by just 25-30dB, less if ill fitting. Even modern double glazing only achieves 30-35dB. However, a very practical solution is found with Selectaglaze's secondary glazing systems, which can provide noise reduction up to 50dB.

Selectaglaze treated 44 large round head windows and one three metre diameter circular feature window, using a total of 109 secondary window frames. Hinged casements were specified to all locations apart from the half round window heads and circular window which were treated with shaped fixed panels.

The casements were fitted with high performance compression seals, flush hinges, multipoint locking and installed with a 150mm cavity to the primary window to ensure the tightest fit and the optimum noise insulation. All frames aligned with the existing sight lines and had an attractive matt grey finish.

The installation was a challenge due to the size and height of the windows and Selectaglaze worked closely with the contractor, City Build, delivering fully fabricated frames that could be rapidly installed from the access scaffolds.

Established in 1966, Royal Warrant holder Selectaglaze is the UK's leading designer, manufacturer and installer of secondary glazing. The company produces guidance notes covering noise insulation, energy saving and security and a comprehensive product guide.

