

an Immersive Spiritual Experience at Salem Mar Thoma Church, India

At **Salem Mar Thoma Church** in Thalachira, Kottarakkara, Kollam, 13 families began their spiritual journey under a small thatch. But as the community grew, so did the expanse of the church. To accommodate 302 families' congregation under a single roof and deliver crystal clear service every single time, the church's construction committee entrusted **Alphatec** to design an audio system that does justice to its form and function.

2 years ago, in the humble village of Thalachira, located in Kottarakkara, Kollam, a small group of 13 families came together to establish the **Salem Mar Thoma Church**. Their journey commenced within the confines of a simple palm-thatched shed. Through the passage of time, the church has experienced remarkable growth and now caters to a congregation of 302 families, culminating in the creation of a splendid new place of worship.

Reverend Vinoj Varghese, the dedicated Vicar, Paul P. George, the Convenor of the new church construction committee, and all the devoted committee members, in their unwavering pursuit of excellence, meticulously chose high-quality audio equipment for the new church. Zacs and Phils played an integral role in bringing the new church building to fruition. With scrupulous attention to detail, Alphatec finely tuned the audio systems to ensure the highest sound quality for the Salem Mar

Thoma Church in Thalachira.

Alphatec's goal was to provide comprehensive sound coverage, guaranteeing a captivating fusion of musical performances and inspiring sermons, thereby enhancing the spiritual experience for all within the Salem Mar Thoma Church in Thalachira. This achievement has been made possible thanks to the new Turbosound NuQ Series and IP Series speakers, powered by Behringer amplifiers, and Audio-Technica India microphones, Yamaha Mixing Console ensuring even coverage and a seamless frequency response.

The 50-member choir's seating arrangement was set in front of the altar, with microphones positioned in front of the speakers. In order to

achieve effective sound coverage in the spacious church, the Alphatec team conducted a sound simulation using EASE, the industry-standard software for sound and acoustics. This simulation enabled the team to refine the speaker specifications before proceeding with the installation. Fortunately, the church's

Alphatec and Zacs and Phil recommended installing six Turbosound NuQ102 speakers in the church's main hall and two Turbosound iNSPIRE iP82 speakers for the balcony area, amplifiers from Behringer, and an analog mixing console from Yamaha.

The Inventory:

- 6 nos Turbosound NuQ102 (Church Main Hall)
- 2 nos Turbosound IP82 (Balcony Area)
- 3 nos Behringer EUROLIVE B212D (Monitoring Speakers)
- 3 nos Behringer KM 1700
- 1 nos Audio Technica U859QL + AT8668s
- 1 nos Audio Technica U859QL + AT8662
- 15 nos Audio Technica MB1K
- 1 nos BEHRINGER PRO MX882 V2
- 1 nos Marani 260P+ DSP
- 1 nos AKG WMS 40
- 1 nos Yamaha MGP 32
- 1 nos Sennheiser XSW 2-ME3-A

acoustics posed relatively few challenges. Given that the church was located in a village, the team had to work with a tighter budget compared to town parishes. This create a bill of quantities (BOQ) that aligned with the available budget, which proved to be a challenging task.

The Sound System:

Alphatec recommended installing six Turbosound NuQ102 speakers in the church's main hall and two Turbosound iNSPIRE iP82 speakers for the balcony area. These choices were made because both speaker models are full-range, capable of delivering a frequency range of 50 Hz to 20 kHz (-10 dB), and have a nominal dispersion

of 100° horizontal and 60° vertical at -6 dB points, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the church's large area.

To power the speakers, Alphatec selected amplifiers from Behringer, known for their reliability and performance. Additionally, the team opted for an analog mixing console from Yamaha to manage the audio signals effectively. This combination of equipment was chosen to provide high-quality sound reinforcement for the church's diverse needs. Zacs and Phil, known for their expertise in church audio solutions, were confident in recommending Turbosound speakers powered by Behringer amplifiers. This confidence stemmed from their successful installation of Turbosound speakers in a church in Cochin eight years ago, which continues to deliver exceptional sound quality.

Reverend Vinoj Varghese, the dedicated Vicar, and Paul P. George, the Convenor of the new church construction committee, expressed their profound satisfaction upon hearing the beautiful, clear, and harmonious sound produced by the installed audio system in their church. The system received high praise from the esteemed priest of the Mar Thoma Church following the dedication ceremony of the new church.

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