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# Silk Sonic

Mixing the Las Vegas Residency

COVER PHOTO BY DANIEL RAMOS, INSET: FOH ENGINEER CHRIS RABOLD

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# PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR OLD MIXER RESPONSIBLY

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## SES Provides Sound for Major Christian Youth Event in Houston



The student worship event, which drew 20,000 to Minute Maid Park, was heard via an Outline GTO System.

**HOUSTON** — The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's (LCMS) triennial Youth Gathering took place this year in Houston's Minute Maid Park, home to the Houston Astros, along with other nearby venues.

With its roots going all the way back to 1847, the LCMS is a traditional Lutheran denomination with 1.8 million members. Their triennial Youth Gathering, a five-day meeting, has been staged since 1980.

Special Event Services (SES) of Mocksville, NC deployed an Outline GTO system to provide coverage and intelligibility for the student worship gathering, which drew 20,000 participants.

The setup included four 15-deep arrays were flown from two ground-support towers close to first and third bases, configured

L/R/LL/RR, with low frequency reinforcement provided by 18 LAB 21 Outline infra-subwoofers.

Because no participants were permitted on the field itself, the sound system needed to reach people up to around 300' (91m) away, in the stands.

"The configuration of the P.A. allowed me to deploy the system with a sufficient number of tight angles at the top of the array to provide excellent coupling and thus the horsepower necessary to reach that long throw," said SES' Jason Farah, who flew and tuned the system with an assist from Andrew Steelman.

"The Smaart traces taken initially at the various seating levels (Levels 100 through 400) were remarkably similar — they basi-

cally overlaid each other, demonstrating the inherent performance of the GTO system," Farah added.

"While I did have the ability to EQ the individual zones within the array, that was largely unnecessary," Farah said. "The only zone EQ needed was a small HF shelf I put on the bottom three cabinets to reduce the relative 'sizzle' in that nearest zone. That single filter was all that was needed to make all the zones' response curves lay atop each other. Once that was done, I could apply the overall array tuning, knowing that the experience was the same throughout the entire listening space." SES also deployed pair of Outline Newton processors, one for each tower, and they performed "flawlessly," Farah said.

Barry Dixon, who mixed FOH at the stadium, added that he was "completely impressed," noting the challenges posed by this event. "Not only did it have to hang from towers as there was no roof or structure, it was blowing into open mics on three stages and it was hundreds of feet from the audience. It was mission critical to tie the audience to the event by effectively reaching them from an audio perspective with the P.A. system."

Along with the "overall cohesiveness" and intelligibility of the system, Dixon lauded the subs as "astoundingly tight and musical," calling the sound quality "warm" and "enveloping" rather than "incongruent" and "muddy."

"Subtractive EQ was my predominant approach to the mix, because it could be," Dixon noted. "I did add some high end to the vocals and sometimes speech." He also credited the system for "plenty" of headroom, noting that "the system didn't fall apart when it was pushed," and that "each instrument shined. We had a steel player and with very little effort, he stood out as a feature very nicely. We had guest cello and violins, they too were featured with very little channel work."

Farah concluded, "While we deploy GTO often, it never ceases to amaze me with the results we get. Its power, fidelity, and unsurpassed stereo imaging makes it my system of choice."