

The €4.6m project is the centrepiece of a wider €7m masterplan for the Bijloke Music Centre. Set within the remarkable 13<sup>th</sup> Century gothic hall, the former infirmary of the historic Bijloke Abbey hospital, the new 830 seat venue takes advantage of the particular and special qualities of the space as found, but augments them with characteristic elements of classical concert spaces, of similar form and scale, creating an acoustic concert hall of international standard, able to host performances and performers of the highest caliber.

The former infirmary accomodated patients up until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the hospital moved to more modern facilities. In 1999, the venue underwent its initial transformation into a concert hall. But despite its impressive scale, the existing hall did not have the natural attributes of a concert hall and the previous interior employed electro-acoustic enhancement to create an acceptable acoustic environment. The new design obviates the need for this by increasing the natural reverberance of the space and improving the experience of both audience and performers, through a number of incremental measures.



