



PICTURE PERFECT CANON PTZ CAMERAS MEET PITCH PERFECT CLASSICAL MUSIC

Dutch content creation company MotionDezign deploys Canon PTZ remote cameras to film high-quality, classical concert recordings fit for broadcast, bringing viewers closer to the musicians like never before.

Objective

- Deliver high-quality TV productions of live classical concerts and corporate events on a medium budget
- Upgrade to a PTZ camera system that could handle indoor low-light conditions which is prevalent in concert halls
- Create a competitive difference for clients through outstanding image quality
- Capture concerts in more immersive, innovative ways

Challenges

- Critical need to adapt to and perform in difficult concert hall lighting conditions
- Positioning enough cameras to capture all the views of the different soloists in the orchestra
- Small production team with limited resources

Company Name: MotionDezign
Industry: Video Production
Founded: 1999
Location: Amsterdam / Eindhoven
Services: Content creation and management
Website: motiondezign.nl
Products purchased: CR-N500 (8 units), RC-IP100 Controller
Canon installation partner: Vocas

Approach

After audiences returned to concert halls, MotionDezign worked with its dealer Vocas in the Netherlands to find a new set of PTZs that could perform in the most challenging of lighting conditions symptomatic of indoor auditoriums. Vocas advised the Canon CR-N500 over competitors due to its low-light performance, inconspicuous form factor and overall value. MotionDezign tested a sample out of the box and were wowed by the Dual Pixel CMOS Auto Focus, which all but clinched the deal once they saw how accurate it was first hand.

Scope

From the world-renowned Concertgebouw and the Cello Biennale in Amsterdam to the Liszt Concours in Utrecht, MotionDezign specialises in capturing classical music concerts, performances and events around the Netherlands. They cover around 25 productions a year, the majority of which are recordings. Operating globally, the recordings are often then used by broadcasters, predominantly the Dutch Public Broadcasting foundation or Nederlandse Publieke Omroep (NPO). The company purchased 8 units of CR-N500s, along with a RC-IP100 Controller.

Results

- The 4K image quality and low-light performance improved visual appeal
- PTZs are now a core part of content production solution
- Excellent feedback from operators, including low noise, sharpness and depth of field
- Quick and easy to transport and setup in different venues
- Streamlined workflow with Canon ecosystem

Light adaptaion

The content creation team at MotionDezign doesn't let its size or budget impact the quality of their classical music productions. Specialising in live concerts and corporate events, this Dutch production company began facing lighting challenges. No longer able to set the lights as bright as they liked without an audience to consider, the return of the in-person concert goer meant they had to sacrifice optimal lighting conditions for filming. Listening to live classical music can be a deeply profound experience, after all.

"You need to work with the lighting that's already set for the concert. Our previous PTZs were not up to that challenge," explains Harmen van 't Loo, Founder of MotionDezign. As the demand grew for full TV productions and video content after the pandemic, he made to call to upgrade his equipment in the name of better quality."

"No other brand has the same focus and performance of these cameras – and I've owned lots of PTZs"

Canon



Low light. High performance.

Harmen asked their local dealer, Vocas, for a recommendation based on his specific needs. They proposed the Canon CR-N500 PTZ camera. He obliged, and after some rudimentary fact-checking, he received one in his studio for testing.

"I was blown away by the sharpness and speed of the Dual Pixel CMOS Auto Focus. It was unbelievable how spot on and accurate it was straight out of the box," Harmen says about his first impressions. "No other brand has the same focus and performance of these cameras – and I've owned lots of PTZs. The face-tracking is also excellent and can even be better than my focus puller!"

As a seasoned Canon user, Harmen and his team were used to the signature colours and image style of Canon, describing the picture as "excellent", "crisp" and "sharp" – even in low light. Convinced by the attractive price point, which didn't compromise on quality, MotionDezign purchased 8 CR-N500 cameras along with one RC-IP100 Controller. And so, a new ensemble was formed.

At a typical classical concert, the team sets up a minimum of five PTZs, one left and right pair towards the back of the hall, another pair at either edge of the stage, plus a PTZ camera nestled within the orchestral players – mostly close to the percussion. "If the soloist is a pianist, then we make a top-down shot of the keys," adds Harmen. From these strategic positions, MotionDezign brings unique perspectives to the concert experience.

In tune with the orchestra

Do the PTZ cameras interfere with the orchestra players? "Not at all!" says Harmen. "The musicians are professionals and are used to it. They understand we are trying to make a better show and they are happy to cater to our special requests. Thanks to their compact form factor, the PTZ cameras are well-hidden within the orchestra." The lack of operators means there are no other distractions for the audience either looking at the stage.

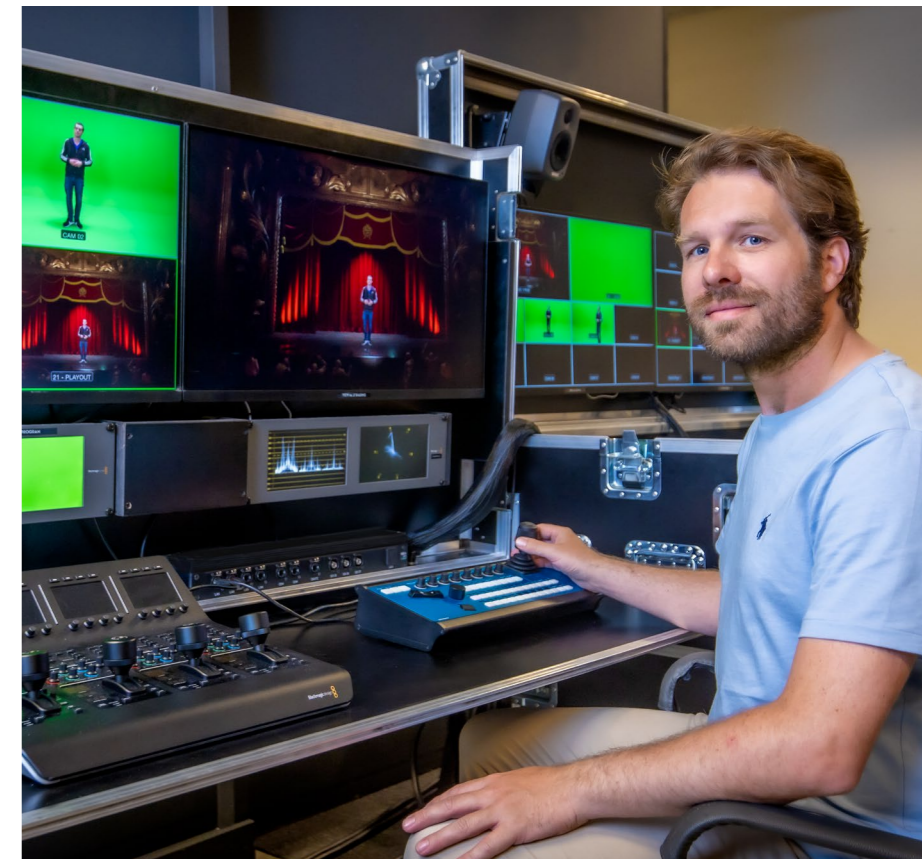
The result is a more intimate, multi-layered viewing experience, closing the distance between the musicians and the audience.

Another practical benefit is the easy setup, adds Harmen: "We have a fully prepped video rig where we store the cameras for transport. On-site we set our rig up in 7 minutes. Then it's a case of unpacking the cameras and poles. At a push, we can be fully connected and up and running in an hour."

In terms of team, there are three to four people on set: one vision mixer, one PTZ operator, one colourist and one person to follow the music score. Control is key as they need to easily switch camera views as the music unfolds to pick out different soloists in the orchestra. These days the team uses a Skaarhoj PTZ Extreme to precisely control the CR-N500s with a single operator, allowing MotionDezign to create high-quality TV productions that far outweigh its size.

"We are using them more and more. Each time our setup gets noticed, we receive more interest in our services, leading to more work"

Canon



Key changes

The 4K UHD resolution proved to be a major upgrade. "The image quality is so amazing," he confirms. "I have used Canon ever since the start of the XL1 series some 20 years ago and some models after that on DVCAM. The image, colours and focus systems feel so familiar. Our previous PTZs lacked the crispness of the Canon CR-N500."

Other improvements he noted were the low noise and sharpness, due to the large 1.0-type CMOS sensor and DIGIC DV6 processor, as well as the depth of field which further enhanced the visual appeal of their productions. The 15x optical zoom also offered impressive flexibility in large venues, maintaining the detail of 4K from wide angle to telephoto.

In the future, Harmen anticipates an increased use of Canon's CR-N500 PTZ cameras in their operations. "We are using them more and more. Each time our setup gets noticed, we receive more interest in our services, leading to more work. So we are planning for next autumn and winter to see if we need even more PTZs to meet increased demand.

"I've been experimenting with the cameras in virtual productions. We did some early tests, and it looks great. But we need time to properly calibrate the hardware and explore its full potential," he ends.

In the Canon CR-N500 PTZ cameras, MotionDezign has found a professional solution to create a cinematic symphony, broadcasting classical music from the Netherlands to TV screens with outstanding precision and clarity.

The Canon Solution

CR-N500 PTZ Cameras

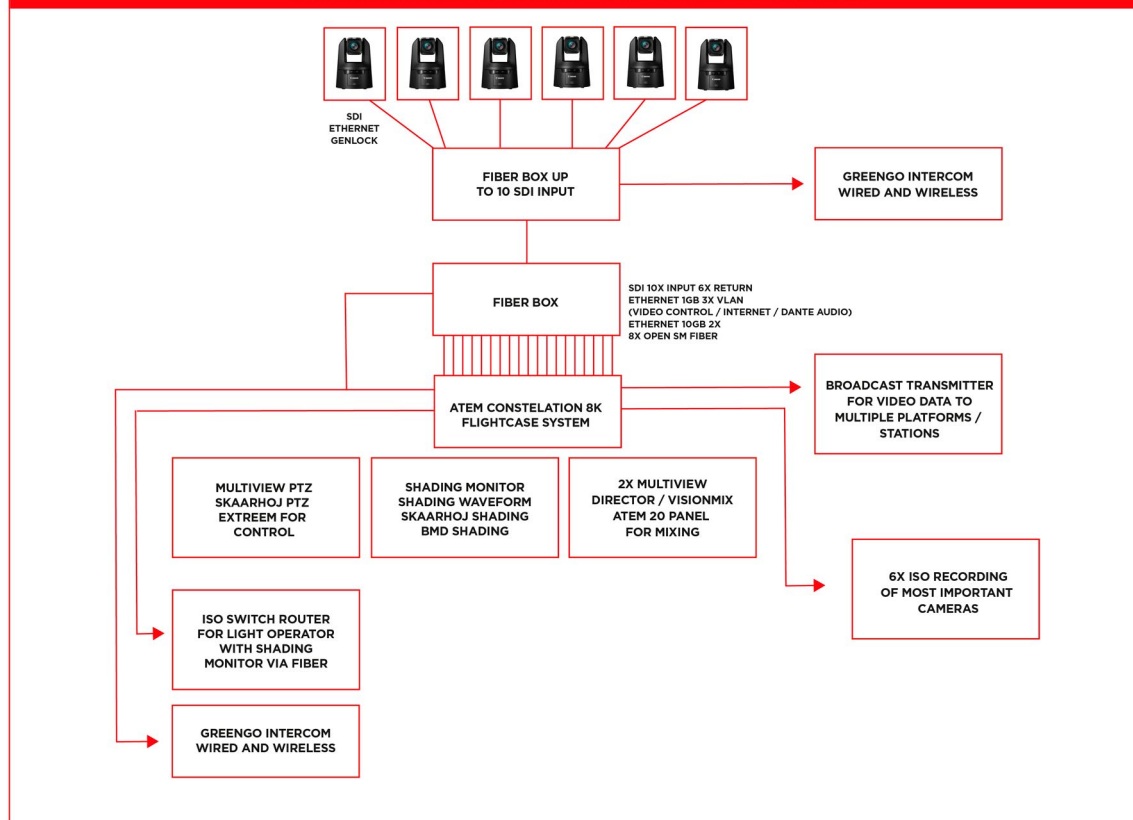
- 1 Inch-Type CMOS Sensor
- 4K UHD Image Quality
- 15x Optical Zoom with Image Stabilisation
- Dual Pixel CMOS Auto Focus
- Multiple in-built protocols such as RTMP and NDI | HX
- HDMI, 3G-SDI and IP Connectivity

RC-IP100 Controller

- 7-inch touchscreen
- Multi-function joystick
- Professional zoom rocker
- Customisable controls
- Flexible connectivity



CONCERT SETUP UP TO 10 CAMS



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