



PHOTO COURTESY WENGER

A black metal ADA-compliant ramp with handrails is shown on a stage floor. The ramp is made of black metal frames and has black handrails. It is positioned on a dark, textured stage floor. In the background, there are some black plastic-covered objects and a window with a view of a body of water.

CREATING INCLUSIVE STAGES

**ADA-Compliant Risers
and Staging**



As music and theater educators, you know how powerful it is to see your students take the stage—whether it’s a solo at a choir concert, a dramatic monologue, or a schoolwide celebration. But for some students, that moment can be out of reach—not for lack of talent, but because of accessibility barriers.

At Wenger Corporation, we believe the stage should be a space where every student belongs. Our performance staging and riser solutions are designed to go beyond compliance, helping you create environments that are safe, adaptable, and truly inclusive. Whether you’re planning a small recital or a large-scale production, ADA-compliant equipment ensures that no student is left behind.

Why ADA Compliance Matters in School Performance Spaces

Creating accessible performance spaces isn’t just about meeting ADA or building code regulations. It’s about sending a message to your students, your school, and your community that every voice matters and every performer has a rightful place on stage.

An ADA-compliant setup ensures:

- **Equal access** for students and staff with mobility challenges
- **Safe navigation** for all performers and crew members
- **An inclusive message** that aligns with the values of your school and community

When your performance space is designed to accommodate everyone,

it becomes a stage for learning, belonging, and expression for all.

Smart Design for Real-World School Needs

Wenger's StageTek® system was developed with accessibility, efficiency, and flexibility in mind. Schools face tight timelines, varied programming, and ever-changing space demands. StageTek makes it all manageable.

Key features of an accessible staging system include adjustable stage heights that can accommodate performers with disabilities while maintaining clear audience sightlines; modular risers that can be configured for band, choir, theatre, or multipurpose use; easy-to-use components that make installation and reconfiguration quick and intuitive; and seated risers that offer elevated sightlines while maintaining ADA compliance.

Whether you're creating tiered seating for a concert or building a flat stage for a play, StageTek gives you the versatility to adapt and the durability to last.

Going Beyond the Basics: Truly ADA-Compliant Ramps

For a stage to be fully inclusive, it needs more than just height adjustability. It needs safe, reliable, and code-compliant access points like the StageTek ADA-Compliant Ramp.

Built to meet 2015 International Building Code standards for ADA, this ramp integrates seamlessly with both StageTek and Versalite® staging systems.

Features include:

- 1:12 slope for easy navigation
- 60" x 60" landings at every turn
- Continuous handrails with 12" extensions
- Slip-resistant Quadriple™ surface
- Contrasting color indicators for elevation awareness
- Optional mid-rails for added safety

Whether you're creating tiered seating for a concert or building a flat stage for a play, StageTek gives you the versatility to adapt and the durability to last.

Not only is this ramp safe and compliant, it's engineered for schools, with adjustable legs for uneven floors, and compact storage. So, whether your stage is portable or permanent, you can offer access without hassle.

Guard Rails That Meet Code and Provide Peace of Mind

Safety is a key part of accessibility. Wenger's guard rail systems offer extra security for students, teachers, and stagehands, especially when movement and choreography are part of the performance.

Our **StageTek Guard Rails** feature:

- 42" height to meet IBC safety standards
- Optional infill panels to meet the 4" sphere rule
- Clamp-on, tool-free installation



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No two stages are exactly alike. That's why Wenger provides modular access solutions designed to handle unique configurations and tight timelines.

- Rigid construction for confidence and security

With guard rails in place, your students can focus on their performance.

Adaptable Access for Every Space

No two stages are exactly alike. That's why Wenger provides modular access solutions designed to handle unique configurations and tight timelines.

Smart, school-friendly features include articulating stairways that adjust to various stage heights; box step and dual-height stairs to support multi-level designs; and portable components that move and reassemble with ease.



NEWSLETTER

With over 220 members, the National Association for Show Choir (NASC) has set an audacious goal: to unite the show choir community in identifying common objectives, finding solutions to shared challenges, and championing the art of show choir. We recently celebrated our first anniversary on Facebook.

The NASC held its inaugural, virtual meeting last September with approximately 30 members in attendance. While the number of attendees has dropped at subsequent meetings, they are filled with intriguing conversations and connected members from coast to coast.

Why does it matter? Since 2015, show choir programs in the United States have significantly declined by over 800. Music educators are quick to blame the pandemic for the decline, but blaming ourselves for becoming insular would be more appropriate. In July, I had the opportunity to collaborate with some of the best directors, choreographers, arrangers, and costume designers in the show choir world at Showchoir Camps of America. The week's experiences were incredible, but everyone left camp and returned to their respective cubicles once it was over.

Show choir pockets have become more common throughout the U.S., which makes it difficult for show choir programs to attend and host competitions. Show choir will flourish when we start advocating, educating, and inspiring current and future music educators outside our program through consistent collaboration. In most cases, show choir directors are the only choral music educators at their school, limiting opportunities to collaborate with someone who understands what we do. NASC provides a safe platform for monthly collaboration among music educators throughout the United States.

The short-term goal for NASC is to identify a common meeting time for monthly meetings and bring in compelling guest speakers who will appeal to a large audience. A longer-term goal is to have NASC representatives from each state advocate for show choir at state and regional music educator conferences.

This is essential to reinvigorating the show choir community in schools. Too often, show choir is considered taboo. NASC wants to shatter the stigma surrounding show choirs by continuing to educate vocal associations, music educators, and administrations how these dynamic programs not only foster students' creativity, teamwork, and self-confidence but also ignite a sense of community spirit, drawing audiences together to celebrate the arts and support young talent.

The National Association for Show Choirs' mission is to advocate, educate, and inspire current and future music educators to progress show choir throughout the United States.

These solutions make it possible to accommodate changing needs without compromising safety or ADA compliance.

Accessories That Complete the Setup

Details matter. From visual polish to backstage function, Wenger's staging accessories—such as drapery closures and side panels for clean sightlines and safety; chair stops to prevent shifting on risers; universal move-and-store carts to keep equipment organized; and anchor brackets and leg connectors for structural integrity—are designed to work seamlessly with StageTek, minimizing setup time and maximizing performance impact.

Wenger is proud to help schools create spaces where every student can shine. Our team can guide you through the process of building an ADA-compliant staging system that works for your

performances, your timeline, and your budget—because every student deserves a place on stage.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Since 1946, Wenger has crafted innovative solutions that elevate music, theater, and sports—delivering quality products and unforgettable experiences for classrooms, stages, and arenas worldwide.



Satin Stitches

CUSTOM SHOW CHOIR DESIGNS



EARLY BIRD SALE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH

customerservice@satinstitches.com | satinstitches.com