

Janet Jackson's Las Vegas Residency Goes 'Hyperreal': Inside the Show's Immersive Sound System

The superstar's new show is powered by L-Acoustic's L-ISA series, a spatial audio system that's capable of placing sounds in precise locations throughout the Resorts World Theatre.

BY DAVE BROOKS



Janet Jackson Performs in Launch of All-New Residency Janet Jackson Las Vegas at Resorts World Theatre at Resorts World Las Vegas on Dec. 30, 2024. Solaiman Fazel

Janet Jackson is taking immersive audio to new heights with her new Las Vegas residency at Resorts World Theatre in Las Vegas.

The two-hour show runs through 43 of Jackson's biggest hits, including tracks "What Have You Done For Me Lately," "Nasty" and "When I Think of You," the single from her 1986 *Control* album that became her first No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. Powering the show is L-Acoustics' most advanced loudspeaker deployment to date, with 242 speakers spread out across the stage and proscenium to evenly deliver high-quality sound to each of Resorts World Theater's 5,000 seats.

The brains of L-Acoustics' loudspeaker systems is L-ISA, the pioneering immersive audio platform that utilizes patented acoustic algorithms and proprietary technology to create ultra-high-resolution spatial audio with precise sound placement. By utilizing L-ISA, Jackson's audio team was able to develop a carefully detailed soundscape for the show that's designed to reinforce the artist-audience connection.

Started in 1984 by French physicist and [Pink Floyd](#) fan **Christian Heil**, L-Acoustics is best known for creating the modern speaker line array, a configuration for evenly distributed amplified sound that came to replace the stacked sound configuration rock bands relied on during the 1980s. L-ISA is an extension of that technology, equipping sound engineers with tools to sonically place any of the show's 99 channels into specific locations throughout the theater. In using L-ISA for Jackson's show, sound engineer **Caram Costanzo** was able to sonically space out instruments for better sound clarity, send other sounds in loops around the audience and enable Jackson's vocals to follow her across the stage — with her voice even rising in height for one scene in which she utilizes a lift to hoist her atop the stage.

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"Whether you're seated right in the middle or on the right or the left, the sound draws the audience in and creates greater intimacy," says **Scott Sugden**, director of project management at L-Acoustics. "And as an artist on stage, [they] notice the audience is more captivated and engaged and it leads to a better experience for both the artist and the fan."

This is far from the first time L-Acoustics has had a presence in Las Vegas. [Adele](#) used the company for her *Weekends with Adele* residency at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace, as did fellow Resorts World alums [Katy Perry](#), [Carrie Underwood](#) and [Luke Bryan](#) for their respective residencies at the hotel and casino. But Jackson's show represents the company's most advanced deployment on the strip to date.

Resorts World Theater — named the world's highest-grossing venue with a capacity of less than 5,000 on *Billboard's* annual [Top Grossing Venues](#) list for 2023 — boasts the first fixed install of L-ISA in Las Vegas, powered by seven line arrays across the front of the stage, each outfitted with 14 of the company's k2 loudspeakers and complemented with a complex mix of out-fill and center hung arrays, subs, coaxials and processors.

“This theater is very unique in terms of sound design,” says L-Acoustics CEO **Laurent Vaissié**, noting the intimate interior design by Quebec theatrical architecture firm Scéno Plus at the venue, where the furthest seat from the stage is just 150 feet away. However, he adds, “It’s L-ISA that creates the show’s unique soundscape and brings it into three dimensions.”

Sugden says that while many audio aficionados have described the L-ISA system as immersive audio because of its ability to fully immerse the listener with sound, he prefers the term “hyperreal” because it “enhances the reality of the show.”

“It’s localizing her voice and making sure that it’s really intelligible and separated from the rest of the instruments we can localize on stage,” he said. “It’s much more than just surround sound; it’s the ability to position sound and the artist’s voice in ways that make the most sense. We have this canvas which allows the engineer and the artist to paint sound in three dimensions, and what they do with that is completely a creative choice.”

Janet Jackson: Las Vegas runs through May 31 at Resorts World Theater. For more information, visit rwlasvegas.com.