

# Center Stage:



Professional audio was once again on the highest of profile stages, serving the late-January inauguration of U.S. President George W. Bush to his second term. Maryland-based MHA Audio, headed by Michael Scarfe, was selected to provide sound reinforcement and support for the event. (MHA Audio also supplied sound for another inauguration event later in the day at the Ronald Reagan building. A few photos of that event are shown at right.)



Cushy gig? Think again. Load-in of the Martin Audio-based line array rig at the "Ellipse," just south of the White House, commenced in the face of an unusually angry Washington D.C. climate. Rain, snow, wind and bitter cold – a little bit of everything of the worst that Mother Nature can dish out.

In fact, the harsh elements forced the crew to keep the system running four days straight prior to the inauguration. They also had to take the grills off of the loudspeakers to tip the snow out. Did we mention the extra-heavy security restrictions? Yes, the unfortunate reality of our times. Nonetheless, the audio team persevered in putting together a large-scale system to serve more than 65,000 in attendance.



# Chief Executive Audio



Forty Martin Audio Wavefront W8L line array enclosures were flown left and right on towers that were 120 feet apart, with nine Martin WSX horn-loaded subwoofers on the deck and three Martin W8C three-way loudspeakers filling in the front.

One of the more interesting facets saw Lectrosonics Digital 400 Series UHF wireless systems utilized to transmit signal to the four groups of (flown) Martin W8LC compact line arrays distributed for delay. The "power plant" consisted of Martin MA4.2 power amplifiers, with drive system processing handled by XTA DP226 processors controlled by XTA Audiocore. A Midas XL4 served as the main music console, with a Yamaha PM4000 console meeting all other production needs.

At monitor world, a Yamaha PM4000M and TC Electronic EQ Station fed Martin LE700 and LE12J stage wedges, powered by Crown. (The president spoke through the standard Shure SM57 always provided by the White House Communication Agency.) FOH mixing honors went to Trueman Montfort, Jr., assisted by Charlie Emmons; monitor engineers were Bruce Nelms and David Colella. Robert Bowers, Keith Suffecool and Chuck Wells made up the hardy stage crew.

MHA Audio's Scarfe designed the audio system in conjunction with Blayne Candy and Ajay Patil of Showcall, Inc. who were responsible for overall technical direction. George Schlatter Productions produced the event.

- Linda Seid Frembes

