RC Daniel uses Bose® Panaray® MA12 line arrays to deliver clear, intelligible speech across an entire football field.

Professional Audio Visual Division of RC Daniel is a trusted supplier to the Syracuse University Carrier Dome, having installed the 55,000-seat facility’s house system. Still, the Dome’s general manager was very concerned when he arrived to view the set up for last year’s Martin Luther King dinner, a prestigious event drawing several thousand community leaders and participants.

“What’s going on? The event is in a couple hours! Where is the sound system!”

“You’re leaning against it,” replied Ron Haines, the RC Daniel engineer in charge of the installation, pointing to the slim tube of speakers stacked one atop the other. Using a six-stack of Panaray MA12 modular line array loudspeakers, as well as Panaray MB4 modular bass speakers in an endfire bass array on either side of the stage, crisp, intelligible speech and fully audible music was delivered the entire width of a football field.

The Carrier Dome is a covered stadium with a 6.5-second reverberation time at 250Hz and they have a proud reputation as “the loud house” for the way the Dome rocks with energy during football and basketball games. At the Martin Luther King dinner, however, the entertainment included guest speakers, Gospel singing, a live band and traditional African drum performance for attendees seated at tables scattered across the field. Speech and music clarity were the priority and a major concern.

The appropriateness of the MA12 speaker solution Mr. Haines designed was soon evident in the enjoyment and enthusiasm of the crowd. Though the dinner’s attendees were less raucous than the sports fans, they were clearly having a great time.

“People were blown away by the sound,” says Haines. “It was a very successful event. Some folks just couldn’t believe their eyes and ears,” he recalls. "A couple of local sound experts had said they were sure we must be hiding a conventional large box system in back of the curtain somewhere. They were amazed that these narrow columns of speakers were providing such SPL with clarity and coverage across the huge space."

Those who had witnessed the set up prior to the event were impressed, too, by how quickly the installation went. “In the past, other providers needed huge trucks to bring in their equipment and the event staff would be required to provide stagehands, forklifts with operators, decking systems and electricians for specific power requirements,” explains Haines. "I packed the entire system in our standard-sized van, brought a crew of three to help me, with no event staff needed for support, and used readily available existing 120-volt, AC outlets."