

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A SYMPHONY CONCERT

When students come to hear a symphony concert, it is important that they know how to conduct themselves so that everyone can enjoy the performance.

Concert Etiquette

Experience has shown that the more prepared students are, the more likely they will conduct themselves appropriately for this unique musical opportunity. The success of a student's experience depends greatly on adult assistance and preparation! In order for everyone to enjoy the concert, we have listed some guidelines to review with your students prior to a concert.

Teachers and Chaperones:

You are the role models for student deportment at the concert. Please plan to sit among the students rather than on the aisle or next to another adult in the group. Be sure that all students understand the following expectations:

- Food, gum and drinks are not permitted in the concert hall.
- The use of flash cameras and tape recorders is prohibited.
- Students should go to the restroom before entering the auditorium.
- All students leaving the concert hall before or during a concert must be accompanied by an adult.
- Students need to refrain from unsolicited talking and movement that is disturbing to neighbors, to the conductor, or to the musicians on stage.
- Cell phones and pagers are to be turned off prior to entering the auditorium.
- Do not stand or put your feet on the furniture in the concert hall. Show the same respect you would when you are a guest in someone's house.

Good Listening

It is important for children to understand exactly what is expected of them at the concert. Students should:

- Be prepared to expect several minutes of wait time between when they are seated in the auditorium and when the concert begins.
- Carefully watch the musicians and concert performers as they prepare for the concert.
- Be attentive and courteous to other members of the audience.
- Listen for the oboe or the concert master to play a "concert A". This is the pitch by which the instruments tune.
- Show appreciation for the efforts of the conductor and musicians by clapping after their performance.
- Clapping is the accepted form of showing your appreciation at a symphony concert. Cheering, whistling or shouting is not appropriate for this venue.
- When the symphony plays several movements of the same piece, it is not appropriate to clap between the movements. Wait for the conductor to lower both arms after the music stops and then clap.
- Remain seated until you are dismissed by teachers and chaperones.