



CONCERT ETIQUETTE FOR STUDENTS



The most important rule at a concert is to listen quietly so that everyone can hear the music and the musicians aren't distracted. They have practiced very hard to perform for you.

HOW A CONCERT BEGINS

The lights will go dim to let you know the show is about to start. This is when you need to silence your voices and put any games or toys away. Make sure your cell phones and other electronic devices are turned off. Even if they are silenced, the light is distracting. Sometimes when you go to a concert the stage will be empty when you arrive. When the musicians walk on stage, clap for them. Other times the musicians will already be on stage and your signal to clap will be when the Concertmaster (lead player) and conductor walk on stage.

You will hear the musicians tune their instruments. Even though this doesn't sound very nice, they need you to be quiet so they can hear each other clearly.

Questions:

1. Which player leads the tuning?
 2. Is there an instrument which doesn't tune with the others? Why?
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YOUR ROLE AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER

Listen quietly. Pay attention to the music and concentrate on how it makes you feel. Talking and/or movements and noises are distracting and will prevent you and your neighbors from enjoying the concert. Remember, the orchestra musicians can hear and see you just like you can see and hear them! Concert halls are designed for sounds to be heard all over the room.

Once the concert starts you should only get up if it's an emergency. Visit the bathroom and get a drink of water before the show starts. If you're feeling sick ask your teacher if you can sit on the end of the row in case you need to leave. If you have a really bad cough you might want to bring some cough drops. If you absolutely have to leave, make sure to open and close the door as quietly as possible.

Questions:

1. What should you do if someone is talking to you during the concert?

2. **High school classes are still going on in the rest of the building and you might hear a loud tone during the performance. How should you react?**
 3. **What are some reasons you shouldn't take pictures during the concert?**
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CLAPPING

Clap at the beginning of the concert to welcome the musicians and conductor. Applaud at the end of a piece or when the conductor puts his hands down and turns to the audience. Sometimes an orchestra will play a longer piece of music that has more than one part (movement). It's traditional not to clap in between the parts so that the mood isn't broken. Different types of music have different rules. During a jazz or rock concert, you clap after someone plays a solo. In a classical concert, you wait to clap until the end of the piece. Don't clap along to the music unless the orchestra invites you to do so. At the very end of the concert, you'll clap again and the musicians will take a bow. If you really liked the show, you can stand up and shout "Bravo," but only at the very end.

Questions:

1. **If you're not sure when to clap, what should you look for?**
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AFTER THE CONCERT HAS FINISHED

Wait to leave until your teachers or the ushers tell you to go, and make sure to follow any instructions they may have given you about where to meet up. Make sure to take all of your belongings, especially any garbage you may have dropped on the floor.

Questions:

1. **What was your favorite part?**
 2. **What is something new that you learned today?**
 3. **How did the music make you feel?**
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COME AGAIN!

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