



Alabama Vocal Association

“I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity, to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.”

Paul McCartney

Choir Concert Etiquette Form F1.3

- 1. ARRIVE ON TIME:** Audience members should arrive prior to a performance in plenty of time to receive a program, find a seat, and get settled before the concert begins. If you arrive after the concert has started, you should wait until applause begins before entering the concert hall.
- 2. DON'T LEAVE UNTIL THE END OF THE CONCERT:** Audience members should not get up for any reason until the concert is over unless there is an emergency or if staying in the concert makes more noise than leaving (i.e., you have a bad coughing fit, are holding a crying baby, etc.). As a choir member, your child needs to stay until the end of the concert, as well, so don't plan to leave after your child's part of the performance.
- 3. NO TALKING:** Audience members should never talk or whisper while the music is sounding. It is perfectly acceptable to talk while the choir is offstage, during applause, intermission, etc.
- 4. TURN OFF CELL PHONES:** Pagers, cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off (not just put on silent) prior to the performance. This includes a ban on texting and playing games on cell phones, as well.
- 5. NOISE OR MOVEMENT OF ANY KIND FROM THE AUDIENCE DURING THE PERFORMANCE IS DISTRACTING:** Singing, humming, and clapping are not appropriate, unless the conductor invites you to join in. Movement, including dancing, is distracting to the singers and other audience members, unless specifically requested. In a concert you show respect by giving your full attention to the performers.
- 6. NOISY CHILDREN:** If children are brought to a concert, it is the parent's responsibility to make sure that they are quiet. If a child becomes restless or upset, the parent should quickly and quietly take him/her out of the concert hall.
- 7. NO EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING(!), OR GUM CHEWING:** These are considered rude at a concert. Cough lozenges are appropriate if needed, but should be opened before the music begins to avoid the crackling paper sound.
- 8. POSITIVE APPLAUSE IS ALWAYS WELCOME:** Clapping to show your appreciation is most appropriate when a performance is over. If you are not sure whether to clap for a soloist or between movements, wait until others clap to join in. Negative reactions to a performance, particularly when children are the performers, are unacceptable.
- 9. PICTURES AND VIDEOS:** Taking pictures during applause is fine, but don't take a picture during a performance if there's a flash or if the camera makes any sound at all, and don't stand during a performance to take a picture unless you're in the back of the room. Many performances do not permit videotaping because of copyright violations. It is best to buy the commercial video of the performance, or to ask permission to videotape, including where to set up your camera.
- 10. BE PROUD OF YOUR CHILD, BUT DO NOT WAVE TO HIM/HER:** Show your appreciation for all the work your child has done by staying until the end of the concert and having positive, honest things to say about him/her and the performance after it is over.