

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

1. Guests should arrive no later than 5 to 10 minutes prior to a performance in order to take a program and be seated. At this point, conversation is welcome, but as concert time approaches, all discussion should cease.
2. It is imperative that you remain seated except for a dire emergency. Such cases would include those of an urgent health nature (sickness or uncontrolled coughing), or of obvious danger to yourself or those around you (fire or building collapse).
3. Pagers, cell phones, and other electronic devices must be turned off prior to the performance.
4. Talking, singing, humming along is not appropriate. And despite your enthusiasm, dancing is inappropriate as well. The general rule is to focus on the performance.
5. If children are a part of the audience, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure the child is quiet. If a child becomes restless or upset, the proper and courteous action is to quickly and quietly take them outside.
6. Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over. All the students deserve a full audience for their performance. Remember, the next time your child's song may be last.
7. There should be no eating, drinking, or smoking. A discreetly opened cough lozenge is appropriate if needed, but other wise, eating should be reserved for intermission.
8. Clapping to show your appreciation is most appropriate when done properly. Watch for the conductor's hands to fall to his side, or, when in doubt, simply follow the lead of more experienced concert-goers.
9. Please note that a slight pause following a piece is sometimes granted by the audience as a way of "savoring the magic" of the music before breaking the spell by clapping. Following a particularly moving performance, it is most appropriate to show appreciation by standing, cheering, and even shouting "bravo", which simply means "well done".

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