

Students will learn many things by attending a Philadelphia Orchestra School Concert. Learning and displaying proper concert etiquette encourages personal responsibility and develops important social and cultural skills. Please review the following guidelines thoroughly with your students. Knowledge of the expectations in a formal concert environment will only increase their comfort—and their enjoyment!

- Upon arriving at the Kimmel Center or Academy of Music, everyone is expected to speak in a moderate tone of voice.
- Enter the concert hall quietly and whisper only. Ushers will be seating your group and need to be heard as they direct you to your seats.
- Follow the directions of ushers at all times.
- Please continue to whisper while in the concert hall. Members of The Philadelphia Orchestra will be warming up onstage, and they need to be able to hear themselves.
- As you wait for the concert to begin, take a look around you at the many features of the concert hall.
- When the lights are dimmed, all whispering should stop. The concertmaster is about to enter the stage so the Orchestra can tune.
- Everyone applauds when the concertmaster and the conductor enter the stage. Clap respectfully—no whistling, yelling, or feet stamping, please!
- Once the Orchestra begins, everyone should concentrate on the music. Watch the musicians and conductor closely as they work together.
- When the host is speaking between pieces of music, listen carefully. Talking distracts the musicians and other audience members.
- Show your appreciation at the end of each piece with courteous applause. Watch the conductor carefully! He/she will lower his/her arms and then face the audience when the Orchestra has finished playing.
- At the end of the concert, please remain seated and exit the concert hall quietly when you are instructed. This is the moment your teacher and the ushers will need your attention the most.

Rules to Remember:

- Use of the restrooms is for emergency situations only.
- Food, candy, gum, or beverages are not allowed in the concert hall.
- Cameras, video recorders, mp3 players, or other electronic devices are not permitted in the concert hall.
- Students who are disruptive may be asked to leave the concert.

Be creative when sharing these instructions with your students. Consider using role playing to teach students how to demonstrate proper etiquette and discuss what other situations require similar behavior expectations.

Thank you in advance for distributing this important information to your students.