



Choir Virtual Learning

Women's Choir/Audience Etiquette

May 8, 2020



Lesson: May 8, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will learn best practices in regards to audience etiquette.

Bell Work:

Think about the last performance you attended as an audience member.

1. What was your experience?
2. What was going on around you?
3. Was your experience positively or negatively influenced by others?

Watch this quick video to begin the lesson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IARUZw2oS-M>



Isn't this something we already know?

While many of these things may seem like common sense, many times they are not put into practice. As musicians, we know how hard one must work to put together a great performance. Months of preparation has come down to the final run of your music. All of a sudden you hear a cell phone and you think to yourself, "Did you not just hear the director say to turn off your phone?" The doors in the back of the auditorium continue to revolve open and closed for those chronically late people. You can hear whispers, crunching of papers and that poor person who should have stayed home with that awful cough! All of your work has vanished and fallen on deaf ears. Not only that, but you were unable to enjoy your performance experience. You worked so hard to be distracted. Let's look at some ways we can better prepare ourselves and our audiences for performances.

It's not a game or a rock concert.

How people think of a performance is critical. When we hear the word, “concert,” most people think of loud music, crowds of people and a ton of noise. Classical music concerts are obviously not that way. Most people would agree that they are not the same thing and do make an effort to be more subtle, however, many times it is not enough. The next several slides will provide insight into specifics regarding concert etiquette.

Early is on time!

We all know those people who walk in right when the concert begins. The lights are down, they're looking for a seat and they find the perfect one right in the middle of the auditorium. They proceed to climb over 6 people to get there and then relay the message to those people that there are couple more that will be coming very soon. That is extremely rude. If the concert begins at 7 pm, one should be there around 6:45 pm. It will allow you to become familiar with the performance space. You can use the restroom, check your phone for any last messages, grab a drink and find your seat. Everyone should be settled when the concert begins.



Please turn OFF your cell phone!



The differences between OFF and SILENT are critical.

Silencing devices- When a phone is silenced, notifications are still received. Lights will come on and the phone may even buzz. Those around will hear the buzzing and also see the screen light up. A person will be very tempted to check their phone. They may think if they put their hand over the screen or turn down the lighting that it won't be as distracting. They are wrong. They are also not listening to the performance.

Turning your phone OFF- If the phone is off, there will be ZERO distractions coming from the device. It's ok to be detached for an hour or two. It can be turned on and checked for messages at intermission or after the concert concludes.

Shhhh....No Talking!



The most important thing happening in that performance space is the performance. What do people have to say during a performance that is more important than the performance itself? Many people have quite a lot to share. It is clear many were inconvenienced by having to come to the performance and had no intention of listening anyway. Some make comments during the performance regarding their take on what is happening. The bottom line is that there are people in close quarters who in many cases paid money to hear the performance. They didn't come for the extra commentary. Audience members should refrain from speaking/whispering while the performance is in progress. No exceptions.

Acknowledgments

The conductor stepping foot into the performance space signals the beginning of the concert. It is appropriate to clap for the conductor when he/she takes the podium. They will bow as an acknowledgment to the gesture and the concert will begin.

Clapping should be done in a reserved manner without extraneous screaming. Clapping is appropriate when the piece concludes. There are times when there are solos during the piece. The soloist will be acknowledged after the piece as has ended. Please refrain from clapping during the piece for the soloist. Finally, if the conductor's hands are still raised at the end of a song, there should be complete silence until they lower their hands. We all know those people who love to be the first to clap. That interrupts the moment. The conductor is in charge. Be respectful.

Be present and engaged!

Whether it be a speaker or a performance, audience members should be there to listen. Maybe they have heard the song before, or know everything that the speaker is talking about. The room is filled with many who are absorbing what is happening for the first time. It is important to be present and in the moment. Pretend like you are hearing it for the first time as well. Be engaged. Challenge yourself to hear something new. Think of different ways you can absorb the information. The more present and engaged the audience member is, the more they will take from the performance.



It's over when it's over.

“Can I leave after I perform?” is one of the most frustrating questions an educator can be asked. There are many things conveyed within that one question. Here's what people are actually saying...

1. Everybody else is not important.
2. I don't care about the other groups or their songs.
3. I have other things I'd rather be doing.
4. I'm incredibly selfish and rude.



Adults are sometimes no better. They may encourage students to ask that question. The bottom line is that the appropriate time to leave a performance is at the very end after it's ALL over.

Thanks for being a great audience!

1. Arriving early
2. Turning off your devices
3. Being engaged in the performance
4. Refraining from talking or making other noises
5. Staying until the final bow

*Thank you
for Listening!*

Audience member challenge.

Listen to this concert below. It's approximately 10 minutes. Practice all of the things you learned today. See if you can put the practices into use and if you can completely engage in the performance until the end.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hk_XvoNCFnE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wodq70Z8Kf8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1Vy9N6Oueo>

Thank you!

