



GUITAR

Helping the Audience when it Comes Time for the Concert

by Grant Wilcox

I have gone to an introduction by a student before the start of a concert. I have found that students and parents alike are thankful for the reminders. Part of this is used as printed material to help the larger student body before a day's event and part is used as a verbal guide before each orchestral concert.

Concert Etiquette Guide for Live Musical Performance

Live music takes place in a moment of time and then is gone. Proper etiquette at live classical concerts is so very important. The live classical music concert may be the only art form where silence is as important as the music itself. Each person in attendance at a classical music concert must respect this shared environment.

This unique environment requires stillness and the promise of silence not only for the sake of others but also out of respect for the artists performing.

The goal as a concert attendee is to simply sit back, be still and help be a part of the silence shaping this rare one-time experience.

Please turn off all cell phones and networking devices...No Texting!

The orchestra is dressed in black to place all attention on the music. The orchestra is dressed the same to place little focus on the individual but rather on the ensemble. In the spirit of this sentiment we ask you in no way to acknowledge any single individual.

Refrain from talking, or making any unnecessary sound

Whisper to others only during a moment of applause.

Do not enter or exit the concert hall during a performance

Wait until a moment of applause if you must leave the concert hall.

When to clap and when not to clap

Follow your program so you know when to clap. Some of the music may be in multiple "movements." If this is the case, please hold your applause until the entire piece is over.

How the concert will start

When the concert is set to begin, the concertmaster will enter the auditorium. The audience will applaud and the concertmaster will have the orchestra tune. After the orchestra is tuned, the conductor will enter the hall, the audience will applaud and the concert begins.

Thank you for your cooperation, respect for others and please enjoy the performance.

Grant Wilcox teaches orchestral music at Brainerd High School. His ensembles have performed twice at the ASTA National Orchestra Festival, five times at MMEA State Conference, four times at the Tier II Festival in Orchestra Hall, and at the MENC National Convention. †