

KETTERING ELEMENTARY'S MUSIC PERFORMANCE RESOURCE



PERFORMANCES

(WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PERFORMANCES)

There are several categories of performances that depend upon the content of the performance, the place of performance, the occasion for the performance, and the identity of the performer. These performances may be formal or informal/casual. Formal performances usually take place in an auditorium, concert hall, or church for large audiences and the performers wear dress or formal clothing. Usually the audience will wear dress clothing as well.

Informal/casual performances take place, usually, for smaller audiences in less formal settings, such as for luncheons or meetings. The performers may dress less formally for such an event, and the atmosphere is more personal and more relaxed. They also may take place in settings where other activities are going on at the same time, such as in shopping malls, for community picnics, festivals, carnivals, football games or other casual gatherings. The audience **may** be invited to participate during this type of performance.



CONCERT ETIQUETTE

(WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE PERFORMERS IN A PERFORMANCE)

Concert etiquette for performances involves how a performer should behave while performing. This involves every aspect of the performance; deportment/behavior before the concert while entering the stage, while standing on the stage, while singing, during applause, while exiting the stage, and after the concert.

In general, concert etiquette for formal large ensemble performances apply to formal small ensemble performances as well.

The first thing a performer must do to prepare for a performance, large or small ensemble, is to make sure that his/her uniform or outfit is clean, pressed, and completely ready for the performance. This should be done a day or two before the day of the performance. This includes making sure all parts of the uniform or outfit are present, including shoes, ties, vests, and the correct color socks or hose, etc.

Formal & Informal Performance Etiquette for Large and Small Ensembles:

Entering the stage:

1. The stage should be entered as quietly as possible. There should be absolutely no talking, not even to give directions to others.
2. Steps should be mounted from one side only. They should be mounted from the far side from which the leader will stand. The leader should be the first person on the back row of the side farthest from where the choir is entering the stage.
3. If the steps are mounted from both sides, then the leaders should be the center-most singers on the back row. They should climb each step at the same time and meet in the middle.
4. The performers should step on the bottom step and ascend to the step on which they will be standing before they turn to cross to the middle instead of cutting across the stairs diagonally to reach the step on which they will be standing.
5. If the performers are using music, the music should be in black folders and carried at their sides in the hand opposite the one that faces the audience.
6. The performers should step lightly on the stairs to make as little noise as possible.
7. The performers should look around them without too much turning of the head to make sure they are where they are supposed to be and that they are spaced evenly. If adjustments need to be made, they should be made silently and with as little commotion as possible.

Before the performance:

1. Stand tall, weight evenly distributed on both feet, feet should be a shoulder-width apart, one foot slightly ahead of the other, and hands to the side.
2. The singer may look at the audience at this time, but as soon as the conductor enters and stands in front of the stage, the focus should be on him/her.
3. There is absolutely no talking or interacting or extraneous movement during this time.

During the performance:

1. The performer must not take his/her eyes off of the conductor from the time the conductor raises his/her hands or baton, to the time (s) he lowers it.
2. All music should be memorized unless the performer is performing a lengthy work. In this case, music should be held up so that the singer can see the conductor just over the top of the music.
3. The performer should remember to move his/her knees slightly from time to time to make sure the blood keeps flowing to the brain and she/he does not pass out.

After the performance:

1. Performers should stand still, face up to the audience and acknowledge the applause.
2. They may look at the audience and take the time to breathe deeply, wiggle their knees and squeeze their hands to stimulate blood flow, but this should be done covertly so that it is not obvious to the audience.

3. If it is between numbers, performers should begin preparing themselves mentally for the next piece.
4. It is not necessary for large ensembles to bow in order to acknowledge the applause. It is generally better for the conductor to accept the applause by bowing for the whole group.
5. If it is at the end of the performance, the performers remain in their places until they receive direction to leave the stage, which they should do in an orderly manner, one row at a time, beginning with the front row.



(WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE AUDIENCE DURING A PERFORMANCE)

There are some guidelines that need to be followed in order for the audience to give proper respect for those who are performing.

Although the guidelines may vary slightly for formal or informal/casual performances, the basic respect for the performer is at the center of all audience etiquette.

Audience Etiquette for formal performances:

Before the performance:

1. Dress appropriately. The audience should wear dress clothing for formal concerts.
2. Be on time. There should be no seating after the performance begins and until the applause after the first number.
3. Take care of personal needs before the concert. Do not expect to be able to go to the restroom or get a drink during the concert.
4. Pick up a program before you enter the auditorium/multi-purpose room/concert hall.
5. Do not sit beside those who will tempt you to talk to them.
6. Do not seat-hop. Find a seat, and keep it.
7. If you come in late, wait to enter until the first applause. Then enter quietly and take the first available seat.

During the performance:

1. Absolutely no talking!
2. Do not exit the auditorium except in case of emergency; and in that case, exit only during the applause.
3. You may follow along with the program if there is enough light, but do not rattle it or use it as a fan.
4. Sit upright and give the performers your full attention. Keep your mind focused on the performance. An actively involved listener is one who does not become bored.
5. Do not wave to the performers on stage.
6. Show your appreciation for the performance with applause.

7. Do not applaud between movements of a larger work. Wait until the conductor lowers his hands or baton before applause.
8. Do not whistle or yell during the applause.
9. You may stand during the applause if you think the performing group has given an exceptional performance.
10. Do not make faces or negative comments about the performance in the concert hall.
11. Keep your mind actively involved in the performance by concentrating on musical elements and/or the quality of the performance.

After the performance:

1. Applaud as long as you wish.
2. If you have flowers for a soloist or for the conductor, you may take them up to the individual after the choir is finished performing and has exited the stage.
3. Do not go up to the performer(s) until they have completely exited.
4. Congratulate the conductor and the choir on a successful performance.

Audience Etiquette for informal/casual performances:

Before the performance:

1. Be on time. Even though informal performances are more relaxed, one should still do as little as possible to disturb the performance.
2. Take care of personal needs before the concert so that you do not have to miss part of the performance or disturb the performers by leaving early. They might think that you walked out on their performance because you do not like it; so make every effort to avoid this.
3. Do not seat-hop. Find a seat, and keep it.
4. If you come in late, wait to enter until the first applause.

During the performance:

1. Do not talk during the performance. Show the performers the same respect that you would want them to show you.
2. Do not leave the performance except in case of emergency; and in that case, exit only during the applause.
3. Give the performers your full attention.
4. Show your appreciation for the performance with applause.
5. You may stand during the applause if you think the performing group has given an exceptional performance.
6. Do not make faces or negative comments about the performance in the concert hall.

After the performance:

1. Applaud as long as you wish.
2. Congratulate the conductor and the choir on a successful performance.

Bibliography

DeWitt, Patti, DMA. *The Singing Musician Level One: Teacher's Resource Book*. Richmond Texas, Patti DeWitt, Co., 2004.