



REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

Orchestral rehearsals have a code of conduct within each section and between performers and the conductor. Take a moment to review these guidelines:

- **Arrive early.** Musicians should be warmed up *before* tuning begins. Aim to arrive 15 minutes early at the latest. (Many professionals arrive 30 minutes early to orchestra rehearsals.)
- **Bring your stuff.** Before arriving at the rehearsal, make sure you have the proper music, instrument, folding music stand, pencil, bow, rosin, reeds, and any necessary accessories.
- **Clearly mark the music.** Write down bowings and any instructions given by the conductor in pencil. Be sure to clearly mark indications so others can easily read it, and so they don't cover up the notes. Do not use pen, colored pencil, or highlighters on rehearsal or performance music as it may distract your stand partner. (It is OK to make an additional copy of the music for personal practice and mark it however you like, but be prepared to play the concert on music without colorful markings.)
- **Be courteous to your colleagues.** Place your chair and stand with enough room to not be in the way of the musicians around you. When in doubt, ask!
- **Stay quiet.** If you need to communicate something to your stand partner, do so inconspicuously and quietly. Save personal conversations for break time.
- **Ask questions.** Approach the Principal Player during breaks or raise your hand to ask the conductor a question.
- **Strings: Players on the outside (closest to the edge of the stage) play the top line of a divisi section while the inside player plays the bottom.**
- **Strings: If you're sharing a stand, the inside player (or player further from the edge of the stage) turns the pages. Winds/ Percussion: Work out the page turning arrangement in advance of the rehearsal.**
- **Be kind and courteous.** Members of the orchestra are part of a team. Avoid bragging about your latest competition victory or solo performance. When warming up, avoid showing off your fastest and loudest passages.
- **If at all possible, don't miss any rehearsals leading up to a concert.** It is a sign of disrespect to both the conductor and your orchestra members if you double book yourself. Make sure you keep a calendar of all of your commitments and prioritize your orchestra membership.
- **Don't let the conductor catch you yawning.** Conceal it. Some conductors, especially at the professional level, will take it as a sign of disrespect.
- **Take excellent care of the sheet music.** Keep it safe in its music folder whenever you take it off of a music stand. This music is expensive and often difficult to replace.
- **Stop playing when the conductor stops.** Playing after the conductor stops shows everyone you weren't paying attention.
- **Don't eat or bring food into rehearsal.** Bottles of water with lids are acceptable.
- **Don't question the conductor's choices or treat him/her with disrespect.** Even if you might do it differently, trust that the conductor is making musical choices that are worth making and support them by playing your best.
- **Don't complain about where you sit.** Auditions are tough. Everyone wants to do well. By accepting your position, you signal your respect to everyone in the orchestra. Work hard to do your best and listen to the advice of your private instructor and music teachers.
- **Enjoy the experience.** Be a positive and productive member of the orchestra. We're glad you're here!