

Concert Etiquette Guide

Going to a concert is a very special moment and one that you will remember for a long time. Preparing in advance will make this visit fun and exciting for you and a better experience for everyone.

Attending a live concert is very different than going to a rock concert, the movies, a sporting event or watching a television show with friends. For example, there is no cheering for your favorite team, and no popcorn, but it does have its own traditions. Because the focus of the concert is on listening to the wonderful music that is being performed, audience members should listen without speaking or making noise. Just enjoy the picture that is being painted by the sound of the instruments, being courteous to those around you.

Before you leave school/home

Make sure that you have used the restroom before leaving school/home. While the performance will be less than an hour, there will not be time for bathroom breaks during the performance.

When you arrive

Seats in the auditorium are assigned to your school. Ushers will be present and will help you find your seat locations. It is important for you to stay with your group at all times as the ushers will want to make sure that everyone is in the right place.

Applause

At an orchestra concert, there are certain times when you should applaud and other times when you should not. You should clap at the end of a piece of music but not while the musicians are performing. Sometimes a piece of music in a concert is made up of several smaller pieces. These small separate pieces are called movements. You should applaud only after the whole piece of music has been performed; not between each movement. *Carnival of the Animals* is chamber orchestra (a small orchestra) piece that is made up of several short movements. Feel free to clap for the performers after the performance is complete to let them know how much you enjoyed the performance but remember not to shout or whistle.

Electronic devices

Extra sounds during a performance are very distracting to other audience members and the performers. Electronic devices should not be brought to the performance or turned off prior to the start of the concert.

Respect the auditorium and people around you

You'll notice that the Lincoln Auditorium is beautiful. Be sure to treat it with respect. For instance, it is not appropriate to put your feet up on the seat in front of you. Also, you should not talk to those around you during the performance, even if you are just whispering.

If you keep these concert etiquette guidelines in mind while attending the performance, everyone is sure to have an enjoyable time!