

Concert Etiquette & Concert Day Details

For Students

We know students work hard to learn concert etiquette at school. Our friends at Classical MPR have a great video on concert etiquette for student viewing: https://youtu.be/re_SypFujRk

You can also review these "I Can" statements with students. I can...

- Use a calm body in my seat
- Turn my voice off during the music
- Show that I like the music by clapping after the music stops

For Teachers

1. ARRIVAL

When you arrive at The Duluth Playhouse Family Stage at The Depot, you will be greeted at the main door by DSSO Executive Director, Brandon Van Waeyenberghe. There will be several schools arriving at the same time so be sure to stay together with your group. DSSO staff will have spoken to the bus company prior to the day for drop-off and parking info.

2. SEATING

Once inside The Depot, an Usher will direct you to the theater and help you find your seats. We have assigned your school to specific seats so please follow the lead of our ushers. Be sure you have indicated any ADA needs prior to arrival. Please note: The chairs in The Playhouse flip up and down and are very bouncy so please mention concert etiquette calm body expectations to students in advance as the sound of bouncing/flipped up seats will disrupt the concert.

3. CONCERT START

- If a student needs to use the restroom or leave during the concert, they must be accompanied by an adult.
- If you need any assistance during the concert, please connect with an usher—they are happy to help!
- When the lights in the House come up at the end of the concert, please have students stay in their seats so we can release each school according to the order of your busses. While we are dismissing schools, students might even be asked questions about the concert or get a chance to ask their own so please help us keep the hall quiet so students can be heard.

You may want to teach students what happens at the beginning of an orchestra concert since it will likely be brand new to them. You could even act out these scenarios in class and have fun with it!

1. Lights will dim – that is your cue to stop talking and focus on the stage. The concert is about to start!
2. One violinist walks on stage all alone – that is your cue to clap. She is the concertmaster and that means she's a leader and an EXCELLENT violinist that sits in the first chair.
3. The concertmaster stands in front of the orchestra and nods to one musician to play a single note "A" so the orchestra can tune—that's your cue to look and listen for what instrument is playing. Can you guess it? (The Oboe!)
 - a. Sing an "A" and have your students try and match you!
 - b. Look at images of the orchestra seating online so they know where to find the oboe!
4. Once the orchestra is tuned, Dirk Meyer, the Music Director will come out on stage—here is another moment to clap! He will talk to you for a minute and then the orchestra will play the music.
 - a. We will hear several excerpts (a few selected parts of the music that we play to demonstrate a musical idea) before the entire piece is played. You can clap after each excerpt if you would like! We will also introduce the different instruments represented on stage.
5. When the whole show is over, the orchestra will stand and this is when you get to really let them know how much you liked the show by clapping or you could even use a calling voice to say "BRAVO!"