

ETIQUETTE AT THE SYMPHONY

Etiquette: rules of acceptable behavior; a way of making other people feel comfortable by the way we behave.

RULE ONE: Dress appropriately for the occasion. Orchestra members wear formal black suits and ties. Audience members wear some form of “dress up” attire.

How does the way you dress show respect?

[Traditionally, we match our clothes to the occasion. Since the orchestra has put on nice clothes, the audience also wears something nice.](#)

RULE TWO: Ushers will direct you to your seats. There will be no seating while the musicians are performing.

What is an usher?

[The person who helps you find your seat, hands out programs, helps you find the restrooms, and tells you when it is appropriate to enter the hall.](#)

In what other places do ushers work?

[Movie theaters, concert halls, performance arenas.](#)

Why will an usher not seat you while the musicians are performing?

[It is hard for others to see the stage when people are walking in front of them and the noise can be distracting.](#)

RULE THREE: No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the hall.

Why do you think food, drink, or gum is not allowed in the auditorium?

[They can spill and ruin the facilities. The noise and smells may be distracting to others.](#)

What other places don't allow food, drink, or gum?

[Schools, churches, museums, art galleries.](#)

RULE FOUR: The audience does not make noise while the musicians perform (unless directed by the conductor). Students should not talk or leave their seats while the performance is in progress.

Why is it important to be quiet and stay in your seat during the performance?

[The audience is listening to the performers. Talking and other noises interfere with hearing the music.](#)

What should you do if this kind of music isn't your favorite style?

[Be polite anyway. Sit quietly. Maybe there is something else you can enjoy. Watch the performers or daydream.](#)

RULE FIVE: Please hold your applause until the end of each musical piece.

How will you know when to clap?

[The music will stop, then the conductor will lower his/her hands and turn to the audience.](#)

What activities have you participated in where people clap at different times?

[Jazz music \(at the end of each solo\), Rock concerts \(when a song starts that you really like\).](#)

What are the definitions of the words BRAVO and ENCORE?

[Bravo = Great & Encore = Again \(more\)](#)

