

DEMTA Audience Concert Etiquette

The polite way to listen to music at a concert is by showing our respect and admiration to the performers and other audience members.

- ★ **Rule No. 1** Arrive by ten minutes before the recital starts. This will give you time to settle into your seat, look over the program and let your student's teacher know that you are there. If you have young children with you, take them to the restroom before the program starts.
- ★ **Rule No. 2** Dress up! This is not a casual event, but a semi-formal event. By your efforts to be well-dressed, you show the musicians that this is a special moment for you and that you want to give honor to them. No jeans, shorts, T-shirts or flip-flops, please!
- ★ **Rule No. 3** Students should sit with their family. Groups of students can sometimes get rowdy.
- ★ **Rule No. 4** Students should come with a parent or other adult. This is not an event where you drop off your child. Families and friends are welcome!
- ★ **Rule No. 5** Thou shalt NOT talk at all during the music. This person or group has worked hard to prepare, they may feel nervous, and you don't want to distract them. OR annoy those sitting around you who want to focus on the music.
- ★ **Rule No. 6** Unless you are a physician on call, technology should be left in the car or turned OFF. We do not cruise the web or send texts during a recital. The emcee will remind you to turn off your ringtones for alarms. Young performers can be easily startled and no one else wants to hear your device go off.
- ★ **Rule No. 7** Please do not chew gum or eat during a concert. Candy wrappers (rattle, rattle) are especially irritating to others during the music.
- ★ **Rule No. 8** If you have a cough, stay home. If you unexpectedly start to cough, try your best to "hold it" until there's a pause between pieces, at which time you can GO OUT QUICKLY.
- ★ **Rule No. 9** If you have a little person with you, try to help him begin learning to be quiet at times. Sometimes just snuggling, a coloring book or a picture book can help. If the child starts to cry or you think he might, slip out with him quickly, even during the music.
- ★ **Rule No. 10** Clap lots for every student! We should clap until the performer is seated or standing in place. It is unkind not to clap. After each performance, clap until the student gets back to his seat. If you are in a concert hall, you would clap until the performer is off-stage.
- ★ **Rule No. 11** If you have exited the hall for some reason, or if you are late, please WAIT to enter until the program is between pieces.
- ★ **Rule No. 12** Do greet some of the other students and tell them how you liked their playing.
- ★ **Rule No. 13** Never, never leave during a program unless someone in your group is ill.

Now you're ready to be a warm and welcoming audience member!