

# Concert Etiquette for Performers

*In addition to the usual concert-going etiquette, there are some standard behaviors that the performer should know. These include how to acknowledge or greet the audience, how to thank them for their applause, and how to give honor to the music and great composers who created it.*

- ★ If you play an instrument that must be taken from the case and tuned to the piano, please arrive early enough to do this. Remember that others may also need to tune, so you cannot assume you would be able to do this in the last few minutes before the concert. You should probably be there twenty to thirty minutes early. There are some music stands at the church, which you are welcome to use. If the group is large, you should be prepared to bring extra stands.
- ★ Let your teacher know that you are there as soon as you arrive.
- ★ Be very dressed up – possibly more than some of the audience members! If you wear bright or contrasting colors you will be seen easily from the back of the hall. Dull or muted colors (beige, grey, olive green) do not show up as well. Please, no shorts, flip-flops, jeans or T-shirts!
- ★ If your hair is long enough to swing or cover the side of your face, fix it back.
- ★ When it is your turn to play, please walk immediately up to the stage/platform and bow to acknowledge your audience. They have come to hear you play or sing, and they are giving their time to do so. A smile and a bow lets them know that you appreciate them. After you are finished, wait until the audience applauds to stand up and bow. There is usually a small pause or silence before the clapping begins, because everyone wants to be sure that you are finished. Then you may bow once or twice to thank them for coming and appreciating your music. Walk swiftly back to your seat, but don't be in a hurry with your smiling and bowing!
- ★ Students need to practice their walking and bowing many times, not just once or twice. Practice your entrance and exit at home frequently, as well as at your lessons.
- ★ The performer should not have to carry up a chair or music stand. Let the emcee and/or your teacher know how many “stage managers” will be needed to quickly move things around for you before and after playing. Furniture, stands, and putting the piano lid up or down should be done BEFORE a performer starts up the aisle. So, wait until the stage is prepared before you leave your seat.
- ★ It should go without saying that we do not chew gum while making music.
- ★ If you play with the music score, leave the music on the piano or music stand and BOW TO THE AUDIENCE FIRST! After you've adequately thanked them, turn back to retrieve your music. It is not pleasant to watch a person fiddling with furniture and music while the audience is clapping, and clapping, and waiting for the performer to notice them. The principle is: People first, things second.
- ★ Make it a point to greet some of the other musicians after the concert, and tell them you liked their playing, too.