

Dear Teacher,

This may be many of your students' first trip to a concert hall, especially for a symphony orchestra performance. In order for everyone to have the best possible experience, you may want to let your students know what an important part their conduct plays in this, or any, performance. Here are some basic rules of audience behavior your students may find helpful.

1. Being at a concert is not like being at a hockey game, although both can be very enjoyable. Please stay seated and quiet for the duration of the concert.
2. Be respectful and considerate to others in the audience. Just because you may feel bored or fidgety, the people around you should still be allowed to listen to the concert without distractions.
3. What constitutes a distraction? Lots of things – talking, crinkling paper, tapping your feet loudly, clapping when it's not called for, cell phones ringing, moving around too much in your seat, eating, throwing things, etc. Just think about the things that bother you when you want to listen to something. Most likely these things will bother others as well.
4. Enter the auditorium and walk to your seats in an orderly fashion. Running, pushing and purposely getting in the way of others is not only rude, but dangerous.
5. At the end of each piece of music performed, you will have the opportunity to show the performers how much you enjoyed the music. Clap if you liked it, clap and stand if you really liked it, but reserve the shouting and whistling until you're at that hockey game mentioned earlier. Never boo the orchestra. If you didn't like the performance, just stay quiet. They'll get the message.