



The Ten Rules of Concert Etiquette

(from *The National Association of Music Education*,
and from *The Averitt Center for the Arts*)

1. Refrain from talking.

This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or disciplining your other children. When the overture begins, the show has begun. Please cease all talk at this point.

2. Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.

If the composer wanted to include crinkle paper noises to the music, he/she would have written it into the parts. Also, do not jangle keys, bangles or coins during the performance.

If you develop a problem and cannot refrain from coughing or clearing your throat, try to leave during the round of applause and perhaps watch the show from the rear of the theatre.

3. Turn off pagers, cell phones, watch alarms, and electronic games.

While many phones and pagers now have very symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.

4. Do not wave to your child during the concert.

After all, they do know who you are already and they know you are there; you most likely brought them to the concert.

5. Do not take flash photography.

You don't want your child to walk off the edge of the stage from flash blindness, do you?

6. Please do not walk down the center aisle with your camera.

Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium. (Besides, the light is usually not good enough for video taping anyway.)

7. Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.

All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, the next time your child's song could be last!

8. Applaud at appropriate times.

Some music has several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections have been performed.

Performers appreciate a round of applause at the end of a scene or a song. Screaming, whistling, and catcalls are not appropriate. It is better to applaud louder and longer to show your heartfelt appreciation.

9. Do not leave the auditorium during the music.

If several performers or groups are performing, stay for all. It is rude to leave between performers.

Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom, unless you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly. PLEASE!

10. Go to the concert expecting the best.

You just might be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in!

Arrive on time, before the concert begins. Arriving late is a theatre no-no – late entry disturbs everyone, including the performers. If you absolutely must arrive late, wait until applause begins to enter the theatre.

◆ **Attend the reception following the performance.**

If there is a reception following the performance, plan to attend and mingle with the performers, audience and guests. Remember, the refreshments are for everyone, but keep your selections to perhaps one drink and one cookie. If you would like seconds, please ask one of the attendants.