

ORCHESTRA ETIQUETTE

1. ARRIVAL

Arrive in time for rehearsals to settle in for a 7:30pm start

2. WARM-UP

Play *mezzo forte* – there is no need to play very loudly as it is difficult for others to hear themselves play or speak

Use the time to work on some tricky passages from the program

3. TUNING

When the oboe sounds the tuning A, count to 5 to let it settle

Play your A *mezzo forte*, never *forte*

Tune your A to match the oboe's A

Once in tune, stop playing!!

Our orchestra protocol is to have 3 As – winds, lower strings, upper strings

4. TALKING

Please do not talk in rehearsal unless it's essential to sort out a music issue, in which case, please do so quietly so that it does not distract others

5. PLAYING

Please pay attention to directions from the podium (including where to start, how to play etc.)

If your section is not being addressed, your part may relate to what is being rehearsed

When the conductor asks the orchestra or a section to start playing from say bar X, there is no need to play the beginning of that bar when those notes are the end of a phrase from a previous bar.

6. STOPPING

When the conductor indicates that the orchestra should stop playing, please do stop immediately, as rehearsal time is valuable.

7. CONCERT TIME

At the end of a movement, allow the sound to completely dissipate before turning pages. The rustle of page turns can be heard.

When the conductor acknowledges the musicians, look at the audience, smile and show that you appreciate the acknowledgement. There is time afterwards to pack up your instrument and music stand.