

ORCHESTRA ETIQUETTE

These guidelines are intended to help our rehearsals and performances run smoothly and respectfully for everyone. By following shared etiquette, we create an environment where musicians can focus, communicate clearly, and make the best possible music together. Thank you for your professionalism and consideration of your colleagues.

1. Arrival

Please arrive with enough time to settle in before the 7:30 pm rehearsal start.

2. Warm-Up

During warm-up, please play at a *mezzo forte* level. This helps ensure everyone can hear themselves and communicate comfortably.

This is also a good opportunity to review any challenging passages from the program.

3. Tuning

When the oboe sounds the tuning A, please wait a few seconds for the pitch to settle.

Play your A at *mezzo forte* (not *forte*) and adjust to match the oboe.

Once you are in tune, please stop playing.

Our tuning sequence is three As: winds, lower strings, then upper strings.

4. Talking

To help maintain focus, please keep talking during rehearsal to a minimum. If discussion is needed to clarify a musical issue, please do so quietly and briefly.

5. Playing

Please watch the podium for directions, including starting points and performance details.

Even when another section is being rehearsed, your part may relate to the material being worked on.

When asked to start at a specific bar, please begin exactly at that point, without including notes that belong to the end of the previous phrase.

6. Stopping

When the conductor indicates a stop, please stop promptly so rehearsal time can be used efficiently.

7. Cellphone Use

Please avoid using cellphones during rehearsal, even when your section is not actively playing. Listening to the work being done with other sections can be helpful, and minimizing distractions supports everyone's focus.

8. Playing During Breaks or After Rehearsal

Breaks and post-rehearsal time are opportunities to socialize. If you need to play during these times, please use a mute so others can converse comfortably.

9. Concert Etiquette

At the end of a movement and the whole piece, please allow the sound to fully fade before turning pages, as page noise carries.

When the conductor acknowledges the orchestra, please face the audience and acknowledge them as well. There will be time afterward to pack up instruments and stands.