

MSO FOR SCHOOLS

WHAT DOES AN AUDIENCE MEMBER DO?



BEFORE THE CONCERT

- Arrive on time. You may need to allow time to put your bags in the cloakroom (but try not to bring school bags as storage is limited) and anyone needing the bathroom should go before the concert starts. If students need to eat their morning tea/lunch, please allow time to do this before entering the auditorium.
- The ushers will show you to your allocated seats and make sure everyone has a place to sit. Teachers might want to think about any students they should be sitting amongst. And teachers should be dispersed across the group.
- Make sure your phone is turned off, and you have nothing out of your pockets that could make a noise or drop on the floor.
- Start looking at the layout of the orchestra and seeing what instruments you already recognise.

DURING THE CONCERT

- Schools' concerts have a presenter who will help guide you through the concert, introduce the pieces and point out things to listen for. They will also have activities for the students and their teachers to do, so be ready to participate when asked.
- When the conductor comes on stage everyone stops what they are doing and pays attention. The orchestra will all sit up in their chairs and be ready to play, watching for the signal.
- When the conductor's arms go up, that is the signal for the audience to sit up and stop talking or fidgeting and focus on being ready to listen.

- Clapping is welcome at the end of each piece. Just as you like to be told you have done a good job, clapping shows the musicians they have done a good job.
- Playing in an orchestra requires a lot of concentration and while it is the orchestra's job to play the best they can as an ensemble, it is the audience's job not to distract them. So there is no photography, unwrapping sweets, talking or getting up to go to the bathroom during the performance. In a bathroom emergency, wait until the applause at the end of a piece and depart as quietly as possible.
- Enjoy the performance - think about how all those people on stage work together and think about what you like most, anything you don't like and why.

AFTER THE CONCERT

- Usually, the ushers will let you know when it is your turn to exit. Make sure you take all your belongings as it can be difficult to retrieve lost property.
- Talk to each other about the things you learnt, the things you enjoyed and the instruments you liked to watch play.



**The audience has a very important role to play.
Without an audience there is no performance!**