

CONCERT BEHAVIORS & EXPECTATIONS AT ORCHESTRA HALL YPC



Before attending the Young People’s Concert at Orchestra Hall, take time to introduce your students to concert behaviors and expectations. Emphasize that when they are in the audience, they are part of creating the concert experience—not just for themselves, but also for the performers and the people around them. Explain that good concert etiquette shows respect for the musicians and for others in the audience, and it helps everyone stay focused on the music.

Use the following videos to spark discussion about what’s expected in a concert setting:

- Class Notes: What To Do at a Concert (humorous look at why classical concerts require focused attention): https://youtu.be/re_SypFujRk
- Jason Lai: How to Behave at a Concert (practical tips on clapping, coughing, arriving on time, and more): <https://youtu.be/etKMvzjASFk>
- Hornell Intermediate School Students: Dos and Don’ts of Concert Etiquette (student-created examples of good and bad audience behavior): <https://youtu.be/wy4n50dk8os>

Encourage students to notice what behaviors are encouraged, which are discouraged, and why. After viewing, lead a short discussion or make a class list of “Concert Do’s and Don’ts” to review before the concert.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Video 1: Class Notes – *What To Do at a Concert*

Focus: Why concerts require focused attention.

- What were some of the funny “wrong” behaviors in the video?
- Why does classical music need more attention than some other kinds of performances?
- How do performers know the audience is paying attention, even when they’re quiet?

Video 2: Jason Lai – *How to Behave at a Concert*

Focus: Specific etiquette (clapping, coughing, arriving on time).

- What were some of the “characters” you should not be in a concert?
- When is the right time to clap at a classical concert?
- Why is it important to arrive on time?
- What can you do if you need to cough or sneeze during the concert?

CONCERT BEHAVIORS & EXPECTATIONS AT NORTHROP YPC

VOCALESSENCE
WITNESS 

Video 3: Hornell Intermediate Students – *Concert Do's and Don'ts*

Focus: Student-created examples of good and bad behavior.

- Which “don’ts” stood out to you the most? Why?
- What are the most important “do’s” for being a respectful audience member?
- If you saw a classmate doing one of the “don’ts” at Northrop, what could you do to help them get back on track?