

Concerts are our opportunities to perform to a paying audience, frequently with professional orchestras and soloists. Therefore it is important to have guidelines on etiquette so that all choir members know how to present themselves well at a public performance. The choir is part of the performing team, but it is quite correct to applaud soloists or orchestra (see below).

A huge amount of effort goes into the preparation of every concert. The arrival and entry of the choir on stage marks the start of the concert as far as the audience is concerned and our engagement with them.

A choir member acts as 'Concert Manager' for each concert, and will give all advice and directions.

- a) Do be clear on the seating plan that has been drawn up and agreed at the final rehearsal. The staging and seats will be set up according to the plan.
- b) Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched off. It may be safer not to bring mobile phones into the venue at all!
- c) Assemble 30 minutes before the concert starts. Form up into seating position order a few minutes before filing on to the stage.
- d) File on to the stage and sit down when instructed (usually by the Concert Manager). Look interested, engaged and smile!
- e) On an agreed signal stand on entry of the Conductor and soloists. Do not applaud. Wait for signals from the conductor to be seated.
- f) Please turn music pages quietly. If you follow a soloist, we suggest not turning your music page exactly at the page-turn, as a hundred people doing this simultaneously can be at 'mf' level! Do either turn to your entry bar or 'stagger' page turns, sometimes ahead or behind the soloist.
- g) During the concert the Conductor will give us as many signals as possible but also has to attend to the players, so be attentive!
- h) Please do not talk between concert items. Sing with conviction and feeling and remain engaged with the audience.
- i) Water should be taken on stage only if needed. It should be carried and drunk discreetly during a soloist or orchestral passage.
- j) At the time of applause stand or sit as directed by the Conductor. Do not applaud whilst standing up. Applaud soloists only whilst seated.
- k) Remain seated until after the final applause has finished and then only leave the stage when directed (usually by the Concert Manager). We normally walk off steadily and purposefully in reverse order.
- l) In the event of a fire alarm at any stage before, during or after the concert, please exit the building immediately in an orderly fashion using the fire exits.

Normal concert dress

Women :

- Plain black blouses (no lace) with long sleeves and, if desired, jackets with long sleeves
- Black formal trousers (no jeans) or long black skirts, both down to the ankles
- Black tights/socks and shoes
- Discreet jewellery

Men :

- EITHER Dinner jackets, white shirts and black bow ties
- OR Black shirts, black trousers
- FOR BOTH THE ABOVE Black socks and shoes

From time to time we add on a coloured item (e.g. scarf or rose) which will be made available for you.