

PERFORMANCE PROTOCOLS & ADVICE

Please be courteous to your fellow singers. You will be standing close together on stage so make sure to bathe before the concert and avoid strong odors such as aftershave, perfume, deodorant, cigarettes, alcohol, hairspray, garlic breath etc. If you eat before the concert, you should bring mints or gum to freshen your breath after you eat. If you are a smoker, please don't stand near the stage door as the smoke carries inside.

For the safety of our members, it is the policy of _____ that chorus members who are obviously under the influence of alcohol or other substances will not be permitted to sing in the concert. Please be warned that we have received complaints about certain chorus members and will be cracking down on this rule. It's very simple - don't drink or do drugs before the concert! We look forward to seeing you all squeaky clean, sober, and not too smelly. These comments are also relevant for rehearsals.

When we are in our performance space, the Stage Manager is the person in charge. It is imperative for your safety and for the smooth running of the event that you do whatever he/she asks of you. You should be ready to go on stage no less than five minutes prior to each of your stage entrances. You should be silent at all times in the wings and stage areas of the performance hall. After each concert, avoid entering the auditorium from the stage (you should exit through the stage door/s and walk around to the lobby to meet your friends). Do not leave the backstage area during intermission. For reasons of security and respect, do not encourage your guests to enter the backstage area before, during or after the concert. If you are wearing a special costume and/or make-up, change your costume and remove make-up before exiting the backstage area (it is unprofessional for the audience to see you in costume outside the performance).

Do not bring valuables to the venue as we cannot guarantee security.

No food or drink is allowed on stage or in the auditorium.

Turn off your cell phone or leave it backstage. "Vibration" mode may interfere with microphone signals.

Please respect the privacy of all guest artists.

Concert dress is not required at the Dress Rehearsal unless specifically requested.

Special costumes may be required for the Dress Rehearsal.

If you can, try to find some time to warm-up your voice before performances and dress rehearsals (in addition to the schedule warm-ups). If you need help with this, see your section leaders.

Your appearance on stage:

Tuxedo: shirts should be ironed; shoes should be polished; socks should be black. Wear your service pin(s) on the left pocket from the lapel outward; "highest" pins first. Wear an AIDS ribbon on the left lapel. Don't forget your pocket square.

Holiday: wear a collared shirt underneath your rhinestone sweatshirt with the collar out. Polo shirts work best, but if you wear a buttoned shirt, make sure your collar is ironed and that the shirt is plain not patterned. For major performances, wear black tux pants or black dress pants – definitely NOT jeans. Shoes should be polished; socks and shoes should be black.

Entering the stage: Walk directly to your assigned position and face the audience. Walk in close proximity to the person in front of you to avoid gaps in the line. If you need to reposition, do it quickly, quietly, and with as little fuss as possible. Do not speak to your neighbor. Folder: Hold your folder in your upstage hand (i.e. the hand away from the audience). Bring your folder up/down only at the assigned place/s in the concert.

Exiting the stage: Turn to move only after your neighbor turns. Keep in close proximity with the person in front of you. Again, hold your folder in your upstage hand. Keep moving once you have reached the backstage area—there are many other people behind you. Leave the backstage area before talking to anyone.

While on stage, you should watch the conductor when you are singing (unless the conductor has given you different instructions), and, while you are not singing, look at whomever is speaking/singing or straight ahead. If you are holding music, turn the pages quietly. Convey your enthusiasm by smiling a lot – don't reserve your smiles only for the times when you make a mistake! Be intelligent about bringing up and putting down your music. Do not "pull focus" by moving around, rubbing your nose etc. Keep your knees slightly bent to avoid becoming faint. If you feel ill or dizzy, sit down or exit the stage. Avoid coughing, sneezing or clearing your throat. You can help avoid these things by drinking lots of fluids on the day of the concert, and while on stage by swallowing often and by rubbing your tongue on the roof of your mouth. FYI, clearing your throat repeatedly and/or excessive or loud talking may actually damage your vocal cords. Do not applaud guest artists or soloists while on the stage (unless directed to do so by the conductor).

If you feel that another chorus member has behaved inappropriately, please alert your Section Leader, the Artistic Director, Executive Director or President. It is not the place of chorus members to reprimand other chorus members.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping _____ to be a professional and safe place to perform. Thank you for behaving in a manner befitting the _____!