

# What makes a good audience member?

In the words of Mr. Broach.

Dear Parents, Students, Teachers, and Friends of Music,

Thank you for joining us at our performance. As the audience, you are an important part of tonight's concert. The audience's responsibility at formal concerts is to honor the efforts of the performers by providing a listening atmosphere in which all can appreciate their performance. Therefore, here are a few good rules for proper audience updated for the 21st Century.

Focus should be on the performance not your phone.

Don't play a game on your phone. It is distracting to others. You came to see a concert.	<i>That next level of Candy Crush can wait about an hour. Do people still play that?</i>
If you must text, do it between pieces.	<i>Remember the days before cell phones when someone had to wait (literally) hours before reaching you?</i>
Remain seated. If you must leave the auditorium, please do so in between pieces.	<i>Sit back, relax. You've earned it!</i>

We should only hear the performance.

Your phone should be on silent (no ringing, no text-clicking, no dings).	<i>The composer didn't write you a solo.</i>
Only talk in between pieces.	<i>Again, no solo for you.</i>
If you must take a call, please leave the auditorium, between pieces.	<i>Again, remember the old days when people had to wait to reach you?</i>
Please do not hum or clap along with the performers, unless specifically invited to do so.	<i>Maybe in a moment of inspiration the performers will invite you to join in!</i>

What about children?

Make sure etiquette is part of the experience for young children. This might mean practicing good audience etiquette at home prior to the performance.	<i>I know learning to stay seated is hard. Imagine all the hard work the kids on the stage do. Don't let your wandering child steal the show.</i>
If young children become restless and disrupt others' ability to listen, please take them from the auditorium until they are quiet.	<i>It's ok, kids do that sometimes. Others understand if you have to take them away for a bit.</i>

We have all worked very hard to prepare an exceptional evening of music for everyone. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance in helping this to be a wonderful experience for all of us!

