Proper concert etiquette basically boils down to paying attention the entire time the musician(s) is performing and then appropriately congratulating them for their performance.

APPLAUSE

Hold applause until the end of the piece, except in jazz performances, where it is normal to applaud after solo. In classical music, there is no applause after solos—excepting, of course, non-Wagnerian opera!

Hold your applause until the conductor’s arms are down to their side, sometimes there will be a pause at the end of the piece before the final few chords and many performances are sabotaged by applause in that poignant moment.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Pay attention to tone, tuning, or text, blend or balance, rhythmic precision, diction, stage presence, and emotion of the music.

Show yourself (and your friends) that you CAN concentrate on the entire performance.

At student performances, enjoy the music that your fellow peer musicians have worked so hard to prepare!!

1. Be on time. Don’t be the last one to be seated, and if you arrive after a piece has started wait until the piece is over before finding your seat.

2. Don’t talk or whisper during a performance. Remember that the performers can hear you every bit as well as you can hear them.

3. Be sure to turn off any cell phones, pagers or wristwatches that can make noises before entering a concert.

4. Stay seated except for intermission and the end of the concert, unless you are truly ill and need to leave the concert hall.

5. Don’t clap until you’re certain that the piece is finished. If the piece has several sections, it is usually not appropriate to clap between the sections. When in doubt, wait to see what the rest of the audience is doing; you don’t have to be the first to applaud.
6. Whistling, whooping or shouting is not appropriate at a classical concert, although occasionally someone will call “bravo!” after a particularly fine performance.

7. Every concert does not automatically conclude with a standing ovation.

8. You should not eat or drink anything in the concert space, including candy, where the wrapper can make a particularly distracting noise.

9. Be discreet in the use of your program during the performance. Many people do refer to their program during a piece, especially if they are following the text of a choral piece, but be cautious that you don't drop it or make noisy page turns.

10. Above all, enjoy the music. Everybody experiences concerts in different ways; some people closely follow the printed program during a piece, some listen with their eyes closed, some follow the conductor's every gesture, some do all of these and more. The important thing is to help create and sustain an environment where everyone in the hall can totally immerse themselves in the beauty and magic of the live performance of fine music.

Addendum for seeing “Your Favorite Band”

1. If you're tall, please don't step in front of someone shorter than you.

2. If you get to the show late, suck it up and stand where you can.

3. It's fine to dance at shows so long as you're not invading other people's space.

4. Stop auditioning for Idol. ...If it is a quiet song or set, singing quietly to yourself or just mouthing the words might be a better option.

5. Put the phone away.

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1 “Bravo!” is an appropriate call for male soloists or an ensemble. However, little-known among English speakers, “brava!” is the call for female performers.