

ATTENDING A CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT

Attending a concert of classical music is a very different experience from attending a concert of jazz or popular music (rock, rap, country, etc.). A performance of classical music takes a great deal of concentration on the part of both the performers and the audience, and in a sense is akin to transcendental meditation. Everyone sits together, clearing their minds in the hopes of being lifted to a higher plane by the music. Although some audience members may be initially intimidated by the more formal general atmosphere of a classical concert, the rules of etiquette for such a concert are actually straightforward and simple once you get used to them.

1. Arrive at the concert venue at least five to ten minutes ahead of the scheduled concert, to purchase your ticket, find your seat, take a program, and be seated. Conversation with companions or those seated nearby is appropriate and welcome, but as soon as the concert begins, discussion should cease.

2. Once the concert begins, do not leave your seat, except in cases of dire need or emergency. If you must get up, try to do so between selections. If possible, wait until the audience is applauding before moving.

3. During the performance, it is absolutely important not to talk, sing along, hum, or yell (whether positively or negatively). If necessary, a discreet whisper to your companion may be acceptable if it occurs infrequently, but the general rule is to keep your attention focused upon the performance in front of you.

4. If you are taking notes on the performance in preparation for a concert report, please use paper and pen. Please turn the pages of your notebook quietly and when music is not being played.

5. Please do not write notes to your neighbor. Keep your attention focused upon the performance in front of you.

6. Do not bring a laptop into the concert venue. Clacking keys and the glare of the screen will distract others.

7. Cell phones, pagers, and watch alarms should be turned off or set on vibrate. It is best to put cell phones away in case one has an overwhelming urge to check text messages or play games.

8. No food or beverages are allowed inside the concert venues at USD. However, bottled water is allowed.

9. If you need to suck on a cough drop, please unwrap it when the music is not being played.

10. It is customary to applaud when the conductor and/or the musicians first come out on the stage. They will bow to acknowledge the audience's applause and the concert will begin.

11. When you read your program, you will probably notice between two and five major compositions of music, with several movements listed as subcategories of each. It is best not to clap between movements of a larger composition. Certainly, though, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between movements and keep track of where the performers are in the course of the program, particularly if you are unfamiliar with classical music. Therefore, if you are unsure of whether or not clapping is appropriate, follow the lead of the experienced audience members around you.

GETTING COURSE CREDIT FOR ATTENDING A CONCERT AT USD

The USD Music Program has established a system for keeping track of student attendance at concerts. When you purchase your ticket, ask for a “concert attendance slip.” A sample is shown below. Fill out the slip before the concert begins, during intermission (if there is one), or at the end of the concert. Return the slip at the end of the concert to the person sitting at the ticket table at the entrance of the venue. That person will turn the slips in to your instructor. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- To get course credit, a student must stay for the entire concert. Do not be late. A student will not receive a concert attendance slip if he or she misses too much of the beginning of the concert.
- You may not leave early and get concert credit. USD concerts can last as long as two hours, although most are shorter. Plan ahead! If you have a question about how long a concert might be, ask your instructor or ask Dr. Shaheen, the concert manager, whose office is C142G.
- The person collecting the attendance slips will only accept one slip per student. Do not turn a slip in for a friend who left early.
- For concerts with an admission fee, the USD Music Program charges \$5 for students with I.D. Please bring your I.D. with you and be prepared to show it at the door. *The Music Program accepts only cash and checks. We cannot accept campus cash or credit cards.*

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

CONCERT EVENT: _____ DATE: _____
STUDENT'S NAME: _____
INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: _____
COURSE (e.g., Music 100) _____

A listing of concerts being offered by the USD Music Program can be found at
www.sandiego.edu/music/events.php