

# WCYO ETIQUETTE:



## DRESS CODE (COMPULSORY):

- Men & Ladies: White tie-& collar shirts with logo, WCYO tie and/or WCYO pullover/jersey.
- Men: Black pants and black socks.
- Ladies: All black long pants or long skirt (no patterns), black socks / stockings. No miniskirts or dresses.
- Shoes: Only black shoes, boots or sandals. No high heels, takkies or sneakers.
- Jewelry: Keep to an absolute minimum – no bracelets/ bangles, except Medical Alert bands.
- WCYO jackets before and after performances.
- Moderate make-up allowed only for High School students and older.
- Loose hair should be pinned out of face area.

## THE BIG NO NO'S:

- NO Cell phones or other social electronic equipment during rehearsals or performances.
- NO chewing gum during rehearsals or performances.
- NO disrespectful interruption of any kind during rehearsals or performances.
- NOT pitching without prior arrangement.
- NO food and drinks, except a see-through water bottle on stage (rehearsals only).

## WHAT ALWAYS TO BRING:

- 2B pencil, eraser, highlighter.
- Music instrument and accessories.
- Music stand. All WCYO members need solid stands.
- Cellists and double basses should always have their endpin holders with them, to prevent damaging the floors.
- A good attitude.

## BEFORE PRACTICE SESSIONS:

- ALWAYS arrive at least 15 minutes before rehearsals.
- Help to setup rehearsal venue. If not sure, ask a teacher.
- Ensure your music is pasted in your orchestra book and in the correct order, with the WCYO front page.
- Learn your parts thoroughly. Ask your teacher to help you in your lesson.
- If available, listen to recordings of the pieces you're playing in the orchestra.
- Make sure your instrument, strings, reed ect. is in a good condition.
- You can warm up quietly before rehearsal starts, playing scales, arpeggios or your orchestra part.
- All instrument bags and cases and other items to be placed at designated spaces.

## POSTURE WHILE PLAYING:

- The best way to sit is centered, with legs slightly apart and feet flat. This also promotes breathing and comfort.
- Avoid crossing your legs or wrapping them around a chair leg.

## TUNING:

- When the note A is given, stop what you are doing and be silent.
- Tune only when it is your section's turn to tune.
- Sit quietly until all others are done tuning.
- No practicing / playing while others are tuning.
- Tune softly.
- Only after everyone in your section tuned their A, can you proceed to tune the rest of your instrument.

## DURING REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES:

- The person sitting on the inside (left) of the stand, turns the pages of the music.
- During rehearsals EVERY student must play from their own stand and orchestra music. You need to write all changes and markings into your own parts, to practice at home and during your lessons.
- Check with your desk partner that you're both sitting comfortably to see the music.

- Watch the section leader for bowings, length of notes, style of bowing, entrances, etc.
- Keep your ears and eyes open and your mouth closed.
- Have your pencil on your stand to write down bowings and instructions.
- Listen!! – Not just to your own part, but to everything else going on around you.
- During rehearsals, place a \* in the margin next to the difficult bits, and look at those sections during your practice sessions at home.
- Follow the leadership of the first desk players, even if you disagree.
- Listen to the other players in your section and try to blend in your sound to match the sound of the rest of the section.
- Write any additional bowings, fingerings, articulation markings etc. into your parts immediately, and if something is unclear, don't be afraid to ask your section leader.
- Pay close attention to what the conductor is saying. *Don't start to talk when the music stops.*
- Mark only necessary markings in your music, in order to prevent confusion.
- Don't be the loudest player in the group, unless asked for.
- Observe dynamics, especially extreme soft dynamics, such as *pp*, otherwise you might stick out and destroy the effect of the whole section.

### **CONDUCTOR AND MUSIC:**

- ALWAYS WATCH THE CONDUCTOR
- Be sure you are sitting so that you can clearly see the conductor.
- Count carefully, especially where there is many rest bars.
- No talking when the conductor is talking.
- If you have a question, ask the section leader, don't pose questions to the conductor.
- If the leader of your section can't answer your question, he/she should ask the conductor.

### **ERRORS AND CONFIDENCE:**

- Avoid staring at or making remarks to players who make mistakes.
- The strength of the orchestra comes from the fact that everyone supports each other, to make the best possible music.
- Play with confidence and don't be afraid of making mistakes.
- If you must choose between getting all the notes and getting the beat, choose the beat.
- If you have to completely fake a section, get the bowings in sync with your section, so that it appears you are playing the same.
- It is better to skip a note/measure than to play a solo during a rest.

### **OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY:**

- Do not touch anybody else's instrument.
- Be aware of instruments lying around unattended, on chairs or the floor.

### **AFTER REHEARSALS:**

- Never leave before helping to clear the rehearsal area. Make sure all chairs, stands, papers and bottles are removed.
- If you are not sure where you can help, ask a teacher.

### **CONCERTS:**

- Be at the concert venue 40 minutes before the time unless otherwise specified.
- Warm up and get focused.
- No instrument cases or bags on stage – make sure they are safely backstage or at a safe place.
- NO talking on stage.
- Stay together before and after performances. Do not walk/stand alone, especially at unknown venues. Stay in a group until your parents pick you up or the bus leaves the venue.
- Keep quiet while listening to other orchestras or performers.
- Wait on stage until it is your section's turn to leave.
- Wear the full correct orchestra attire.
- Smile and enjoy yourself.
- Have lots of fun!! – You have an opportunity others only dream of!