

This is the current concert protocol for the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra, which should apply unless there is a rehearsal running straight into the concert without the orchestra leaving the stage:

## **START OF PERFORMANCE**

1. Backstage, everyone tunes as best as may be, as quietly as possible. Make sure you have all your music with you (unless the music is already on the stands eg due to a prior rehearsal). Generally speaking, you should not take anything onto the stage other than your instrument and music. It's too late for pencils.
2. Three minutes before the stated time of the concert starting, the orchestra enters and sits. Make sure that the position of your stand will allow you to see the conductor, and (if possible) your section leader.
3. Once seated, the concertmaster enters (hopefully gets some applause) and remains standing whilst she checks tuning. She will indicate the order of in which she wants this done, by section. Watch her, and tune as quickly and quietly as possible, tempting tho it is to show off that bit of Beethoven you've been practising. She will also indicate if the A will be taken from the oboe, or from her violin (which will have been tuned to the soloist beforehand, as appropriate).
4. The concertmaster sits, the conductor enters, and the whole orchestra stands (yep, the concertmaster has to sit down and then stand up again).
5. The conductor will indicate for the orchestra to sit, probably say a few introductory words to the audience... then the rest of the performance is hopefully as you expect...

During performance

6. Strings attempt to follow your section leaders' bowings, and upper strings also attempt to follow your section leaders' posture for holding the instrument during rest passages (either "dipped", or on lap).

## **END OF PERFORMANCE**

7. **WATCH THE CONDUCTOR, NOT THE AUDIENCE.** The conductor will bow, then if there is a soloist, the conductor will acknowledge them before the orchestra, and you may (should) applaud them - string players usually do this by **LIGHTLY** tapping their bow on their music (not the stand itself, as this may damage it). The soloist will often acknowledge the orchestra, particularly the concertmaster, although usually only the conductor may require the orchestra to stand to receive applause.
8. If no soloist, after bowing to the audience the conductor will acknowledge the orchestra. The conductor **MAY** indicate for the orchestra to stand to accept the applause. Be prompt in doing this as soon as indicated, as it is bad manners to suggest that you are hesitant to accept any congratulations. The conductor then will indicate that you should sit, and **MAY** then indicate for particular players or sections to stand. The rule is that if your section leader stands, so do you, again as promptly as possible. Sit when they sit, or when the conductor indicates. Did I mention that strings should always be able to see their leader? Sadly, woodwinds and brass can't always, but can flick their eyes sideways when necessary!
9. The conductor leaves the stage first (with the soloist, if one is present). If the applause is ongoing, the conductor/soloist may re-enter and No.s 7 and 8 may repeat. Finally, the orchestra remains seated while the concertmaster then leaves the stage. The orchestra then leaves the stage.

## **INTERVAL**

10. End of first half is same as End of Performance, but not as much applause, so very rare to have anyone standing for it. All orchestra seated after interval including concertmaster, who stands to tune if necessary, so repeat as for No. 3 above.