Orchestral Etiquette

with Amanda Gates

• Communicate promptly and definitively—within 24 hours
• Don’t put on heavily scented perfume or sprays
• Get the music from the librarian ahead of time—and prepare it well
• Know your seating to understand divisi—you may want to learn all parts in case seating shifts
• Arrive to rehearsals early
  • Unpack your case in the proper place and don’t take up too much space
  • Locate your chair and stand to make any necessary adjustments
  • Be respectful of your stand partner, and be aware of those around you
• Always bring a pencil
• Warm-up appropriately—no concerti or solos that other musicians are playing
• Keep talking to a minimum during the rehearsal while instructions are coming from the podium
• Don’t write too much on your parts—be mindful of librarians
  • String Players: Outside players write fingerings above the music, inside players below
• Pay attention to section leaders
• Be engaged during performances

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