



The Missouri Symphony
PO Box 841
Columbia, MO 65201-0841
(573) 875-0600

Dress Code and Concert Etiquette Agreement

DRESS CODE

General:

The Conservatory Dress Code is based on the standards used by professional orchestras (it is the dress code for the Missouri Symphony Orchestra). Students are expected to have the appropriate wardrobe and maintain proper hygiene for concerts.

Concert attire should be worn to all dress rehearsals, unless otherwise noted, to give students the most accurate experience of performing on stage as possible. Students whose attire does not reasonably meet the guidelines below will be given the chance to make necessary changes before the concert; students who do not make appropriate changes may not be permitted to participate in the concert.

Concert Attire:

- Option 1 – tuxedo, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund or vest, black dress shoes, black socks
- Option 2 – Black dress (knee length or longer) with long or 3/4 length sleeves OR black shirt/blouse with long or 3/4 length sleeves with either a black skirt (knee length or longer) or black dress pants; black dress shoes, black socks or hose.
- In general: Pants must be formal trousers, floor-length, loose fitting or tailored, but not body hugging (no spandex, leggings, or capris, for example). Blouses and dresses with low necklines and/or revealing backs are not appropriate.

Personal Hygiene:

- Keep hair out of your eyes. Hair clips, ponytails, buns, headbands are acceptable. Please avoid brightly colored hair accessories.
- Jewelry is acceptable but should not be large enough to pull focus away from the group. Nothing bigger than a quarter should be visible to the audience.
- Wear deodorant, but don't wear perfume or cologne. Many people are allergic to these scents.
- Make sure your concert clothes have been washed and are free of wrinkles for each concert.

See reverse side for Concert Etiquette expectations

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

All students are expected to be present for the *entire* performance, even if they are not on stage. This shows support and respect for fellow musicians in other ensembles—how would you feel if you were last to perform on a concert and everyone else just left? Experiencing the hard work and talent of your fellow musicians in the other ensembles can be exciting and inspiring, both for younger students who look up to older ones, as well as more experienced students setting a positive example for newer ones.

Applause between pieces in a performance is appropriate and encouraged. Cat calls, whistles, shouting rude comments, etc. are inappropriate and unacceptable. Part of being an excellent musician is behaving like an excellent audience member!

Talking during a performance, entering/exiting the hall during a performance, or BEING ON A CELL PHONE during a performance is unacceptable. It is distracting to the performers on stage and disrespectful to the audience members around you. (If you must leave the audience for an emergency, try to wait until the piece is over if possible.)

Thank the families, guests, and volunteers who came to watch your concerts and support your performances of live music!

Be respectful of the staff and facilities of the performance venues at all times. You are a guest in their space – make sure they always want to invite us back again!

Electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, anything with headphones, etc.) are NEVER allowed in rehearsals or performances – including in the audience. Devices should be on SILENT (not vibrate!) when you are in the audience. If you cannot trust yourself to stay off of your devices, store them in a secure place backstage or leave them at home. BE RESPECTFUL.

AGREEMENT

As a student of the Missouri Symphony Conservatory, I acknowledge that I have read all of the dress code and concert etiquette expectations. I understand these expectations and agree to follow them to the best of my ability.

Student Signature

Date

As a parent/guardian of a Missouri Symphony Conservatory student, I acknowledge that I have read all of the dress code and concert etiquette expectations. I understand these expectations and agree to help my student follow them to the best of my ability.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date