

Rehearsals

Procedure

1. Be Prompt --- Early is on time, on time is late!
2. Exhibit self-discipline: no talking when the director is on the podium
3. Respect and Courtesy – listen when others are talking
4. Rehearsal schedule: arrange music immediately in proper order as outlined on the board. Percussion – obtain necessary equipment for each musical selection.
5. Tune your instrument. Listen carefully and make subtle adjustments to each note during the rehearsal. Blend your sound with the ensemble.
6. Be neat. Keep rehearsal rooms clean. Dispose of garbage in appropriate containers.
7. Rehearse as if each performance is a concert. The group performance is only as good as its rehearsals. Each performer is responsible to contribute their part to the whole performance.
8. When rehearsing, stop immediately at the director's request.
9. Count rhythms at all times. Have a pencil in your music folder to make notation on the music.

How to Contribute to a Successful Rehearsal

1. Practice your part. Be responsible for details of performance.
2. Play accurately. It will inspire your stand partner!
3. Challenge! Challenging your stand partner will motivate everyone to practice, and result in a better ensemble.
4. Read accurately. Focus on the music performance and instruction from your director. Don't be the weak link in the chain.
5. Observe markings in the music --- articulations/ dynamics/ expression marks/ key changes/ tempo changes/etc.
6. Listen and adjust your playing to the ensemble. Know where the melody is – don't cover up the melody. Support harmonic lines with good intonation.

7. Be critical of your performance. Listen and adjust your performance to blend in with the rest of the ensemble.
8. Respond to announcements. Be courteous to those around you by listening to announcements.
9. Be focused during rehearsal. The performance will only be as good as the rehearsals.

Rehearsal Hints for a Better and Happier Group

1. Always listen while playing. Learn to “sing” through the instrument so that the tone will be beautiful in quality and well in tune.
2. Always be courteous and polite to the director and fellow musicians. Exhibit First Class Behavior
3. Take proper care of your instrument and uniform. Keep the uniform clean at all times. Brass players keep valves and slides properly lubricated. Brass players must have the necessary mutes. Woodwind players need to keep a supply of good quality reeds – minimum of three – at all times. String players loosen your bow and wipe off the instrument after performance. Clean rosin dust from the instrument
4. Never carry on discussion during rehearsal or performance. Listen intently when the director is giving instructions. Focus on the director’s gestures during rehearsal.
5. Always work out individual parts in private practice session. Ask for help when needed. Be prepared for the next rehearsal.
6. Ensemble playing should be devoted to musicianship and artistry – not to basics of performance. Practice your part before the rehearsal.
7. Learn the correct fingerings and study fingering charts carefully and accurately. Learn alternate fingerings for ease of performance. Become familiar with commonly used scales, keys, meters.

8. Exhibit good posture at all times. For brass and woodwind players, air control is the very 'soul' of tone. Only with correct posture and breathing can the player hope to provide the amount of air and control necessary for good tone production. Feet should be flat on the floor; back should be straight. Crossed legs look out of place and can hamper correct breathing. Strings and percussion players should also use the proper posture for performance on their instrument. Good posture enhances good technique and good performance.
9. Follow an accurate, definite system of counting rhythms. Only by using such a system can rhythm patterns be performed correctly. Counting time is the foundation for accurate, rapid sight reading.
10. Refrain from beating time at a concert --- don't tap your foot at a performance.