**CENTRAL COAST CHORALE CONCERT ETIQUETTE**

All choristers who are singing as part of the Central Coast Chorale are required to read and abide by the following guidelines for Concert Etiquette.

Please remember that the choir is viewed and judged from the moment we enter the concert hall to the moment we leave at the end of a concert – please conduct yourself accordingly.

**DOs:**

* Have all your Concert Uniform on the day of a concert – the Concert Manager will have an “emergency box” – which will contain spare tights, socks, safety pins, a very limited number of music folders and other items, so if you have a dire need, please see the CM.
* Use a good deodorant.
* Listen carefully to instructions from the Conductor/Concert Manager or other designated person for standing/sitting order during the performance and for entering and exiting the concert stage and space.
* Take all possessions, music and water off stage after the last rehearsal and before the commencement of the concert.
* If you have difficulty carrying your music on to the stage, ask the person next to you to take it for you.
* When entering and leaving the Concert Hall, walk straight, with your head up – look proud and happy to be there, and proud to be part of the Chorale. SMILE! Look as though you’re having or intend to have a good time
* Stay in your lines when entering/leaving the Concert Hall – do not leave the stage or break lines to say hello to members of the audience – there is plenty of time before and after a performance, and during the interval to catch up
* Folders/music should be held in the hand closest to the audience when walking on and off the stage
* If you have a specific job to do on the day of a Concert, which requires you to be absent from the Choir for part of the rehearsal, enter and leave the stage and hall quietly – if you need to hold conversations with other personnel, please leave the hall to do so. We run on very tight timelines and stress levels are high during the final rehearsal and we need as much time and as little disruption as possible.
* Switch off your mobile phone before a concert, even though it is left in the dressing room – if the concert is being recorded, a mobile phone that is switched on may interfere with the recording equipment
* If you feel sick or faint when on stage: if you’re able to sit, please do so; otherwise discretely advise the person next to you, who is closest to the end of your row, and they will assist you off the stage, between items, or between movements if it’s a major work. If you are feeling sick or faint before going on stage, please let the Concert Manager know and it can be decided then as to whether you’re well enough to go on
* If space permits, and the choir is able to sit and stand between movements etc., a sit/stand monitor will be selected from someone in the middle of the front row. You should follow their direction as to when to sit and stand
* Take note of who is standing beside you on both sides when on stage for rehearsal – you will be lined up prior to entering the concert hall, space and time permitting, so make sure you’re in your right place
* There may be some choristers who will need more time to get on and off stage – this will be taken into account, so if you need this, or need assistance, please let us know
* Keep your ears and eyes open for assembling before a concert and after interval. This year (2017) in particular, there are some tight constraints at our concert venues, and we need to keep strictly to time. You will be advised of the length of the interval, so be back in the dressing room/assembly area five minutes before, ready to line up. You can talk with family and friends after the concert
* At the end of a performance, watch the conductor for cues of when to acknowledge the orchestra/soloists, or taking a bow – the bows will be rehearsed during general rehearsals, so we’re able to look as though we’ve been doing it all our lives.
* Exit the concert hall at the end of a performance as rehearsed – you may then re-enter the hall to catch up with friends and family, in the hall, if time permits or outside the venue. Stay in your lines until you have left the concert space.
* In the event of an emergency during a performance, please remain on stage in your position, until advised otherwise.
* In the event of an emergency in the audience during a performance, the conductor may keep the performance going or may stop the performance at his/her discretion. Please do not leave the stage or stop performing until advised to do so, however distracting the activity in the audience may be. In these instances, it is our job to keep the rest of the audience calm, and continuing with the concert may be what is required. “Keep calm, and carry on singing”

**DON’Ts:**

* No talking when entering the concert hall for a performance, walking on, standing on or walking off stage unless it’s absolutely necessary. If your neighbour forgets the above request and tries to start a conversation with you, ignore them
* If sitting on, or to one side of the stage while a soloist is performing or rehearsing, no talking or humming along with them
* No talking while the orchestra is tuning up
* Handbags, purses, mobile phones etc. are to be left in the dressing room. This will be locked if it is able to be, or one of the Security volunteers will stay outside the door, to ensure that no unauthorised personnel can enter. This is not only for aesthetic reasons, it is also for your personal safety, should the hall need to be evacuated
* No water is to be taken on stage, without prior arrangement. It is not a good look for a chorister to be taking a swig from a bottle during a concert. If you know you get thirsty during a performance, make sure you are well hydrated before going on stage. This may be waived if the weather is extremely hot, and you will be advised
* DO NOT wave to or openly acknowledge friends or family who are in the audience, no matter how much they’re waving at you, or how much you want to! This looks very unprofessional. If necessary, pre-arrange a discrete signal to your friends and family (eg. adjust your glasses, or an earring), or look directly at them (discretely) and smile more
* No strong perfume, aftershave, cologne or hair spray.