

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO WILL BE IN YOUR GROUP. It is important that all aware of their responsibilities, students as well as chaperones.

NOTE: ALL Adults accompanying students are considered to be chaperones and should share the responsibility for the good behavior of their group.

Throwing paper, eating, talking, taking pictures (flash or otherwise) and even spitting from above are examples of unacceptable behavior that has, regrettably, been observed from some groups. Chaperones need to be aware of what is going on around them at all times to ENSURE that YOUR GROUP is not guilty of any of these!

IN PARTICULAR THERE IS TO BE NO FOOD ANYWHERE IN THE BUILDING. THIS INCLUDES LOBBIES AND REST ROOMS!

Please make sure the students have eaten before they arrive at the theatre, as no concessions are available.

We ask that EVERYONE HAVE A TICKET AND SIT IN THE PROPER SEAT. If someone comes late and finds their seat occupied, it is almost impossible to straighten things out when people are not in their correct seats. This creates a domino effect, especially when people arrive after the curtain goes up. Policy allows latecomers to be seated at rehearsals, but often their seats are occupied, and there are no nearby ones available.

After your group is seated, students may switch with each other, but **ADULTS MAY NOT SIT TOGETHER.** The tickets have been assigned so that adults are distributed throughout your group. **The ushers have been instructed to make sure that two or more adults are not seated together.**

Thank you. Your cooperation will ensure that everyone can enjoy the rehearsal without interruption.

SPECIFIC NOTICE TO THE STUDENTS ON THE BACK.

TO THE STUDENT This section should be read to, or by, **everyone**. We cannot emphasize this enough!

ATTENDING THE OPERA

Whether you are attending the opera for the first or the fiftieth time, as you arrive at the Civic Theatre, San Diego's Opera House, you will feel the excitement and anticipation in the air. With many others, you will find your seat and then have a chance to glance around the auditorium and prepare for a memorable experience. If you listen, you will hear the orchestra tuning in the pit and, if you are sitting in the balcony, you will see the musicians. When the house lights begin to dim, it will be your signal to stop talking. The opera is about to begin. At a Student Dress Rehearsal, the Opera's Director of Education and Outreach will come before the curtain to greet you and briefly tell you about the story. When the orchestra stops tuning, you will see a spotlight on the conductor entering the pit from the left side. You should applaud as he or she bows to the audience. **The raised baton is your signal to keep absolutely quiet;** the music will not begin until you do!

Sometimes the orchestra plays a rather long piece, or overture, and sometimes something rather short, a prelude. In either case, this is part of the performance, and **you and your group should remain quiet while the orchestra is playing.** When the curtain rises, the stage setting, the costumes, and the lighting transport you to a distant and wonderful new world. The voices of the singers blend and soar over the orchestra, and you become part of some distant time or place. You will not return to reality until the curtain falls.

VERY IMPORTANT: If the curtain falls but the lights do not go up, you know this is only a short pause for a change of sets, and you must stay in your seat. If the music stops, you may talk quietly, but if the orchestra plays an interlude, this is part of the opera and calls for absolute silence. Keep your eye on the conductor. Remember, whenever you see the raised baton, it is time for the opera to begin again.

If the lights go on, it is an intermission between acts. During the intermissions of a Student Dress Rehearsal, it is usual for the curtain to rise. You can then watch the scenery change while the Director of Education and Outreach and special guests explain what is happening. You will want to stay in your seat for this special treat (which few adults ever see). Afterward, you may stretch your legs, have a look in the orchestra pit, and admire the wonderful glass chandelier in the main lobby. Just be sure to be back in your seat before the lights dim again. Intermissions usually last about twenty minutes. **Please do not leave the theatre during the intermissions.**

At the end of the opera, after the excitement of the curtain calls — when the cast and the conductor take their bows — the lights go on, and the rehearsal is over. As you leave the theatre, you will still seem to hear the music. We hope you will come back to another opera soon.

THE AUDIENCE is an important part of every performance, whether it be at an opera or a baseball game. In a live event, the performers and the audience are partners, reacting with each other in a way that is not possible when seeing a movie or watching television. Your actions affect the success of the opera or the game. While the cheers of the crowd inspire the home team, attending the opera is not like going to a sporting event. If you talk or move around at the opera, you may distract others, and you will miss something important. Your favorite part may come when you least expect it. Furthermore, the singers do not use microphones. It is hard for them to sing over a noisy audience. Please read the following guidelines carefully so that everyone will have an enjoyable experience.

***Please be in your seat before the house lights go down, and stay there until the lights go on again. You should only leave your seat in the event of an emergency or if you are directed to do so by an usher;**

***Please do not talk with, or whisper to, or annoy your neighbor;**

***Please do not throw things in the auditorium;**

***No refreshments are available at dress rehearsals! Please do not bring food or drink of ANY KIND into the auditorium. You will be asked to leave it at the table in the lobby;**

***Please do not run up and down the stairs or in the aisle during intermission. Someone might get hurt. Remember that each act can last one hour or longer! Use the rest room before you leave home and during the intermission(s), not during the performance.**

APPLAUSE: There are specific times when it is appropriate to applaud: when the conductor enters the orchestra pit; at the end of an act or scene; when the opera is over; when the performers take a bow; when an aria is sung particularly well. (While it is customary, but not necessary, to applaud at the end of an aria, don't overdo it. Prolonged applause interrupts the flow of the rehearsal and lengthens the evening. **IT IS NEVER APPROPRIATE TO WHISTLE OR YELL DURING A PERFORMANCE IN THE THEATRE!**) However, at the **END**, when the artists take their curtain calls, many people like to cheer their favorites by calling out **BRAVO!** for a man, **BRAVA!** for a woman, or **BRAVI!** for several people.

Finally, if you show consideration to others, they will do the same for you, and everyone can have a good time.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? It is traditional to get dressed up for the opera. **ALL OF YOUR SCHOOL DRESS CODES APPLY!**

SEE YOU AT THE OPERA! (*signed*) Angela Montague Kanish Associate Director of Education, San Diego Opera