

Theatre and Recital Hall Etiquette

1. Remember that you, too, are a performer and you want every audience member to respect your efforts on stage.
2. Enter the performance hall and go immediately to your seat. If you are late, do not enter during a performance. Wait quietly in the commons or entry hall until a selection has been completed or until intermission.
3. Do not leave the performance hall during a performance. If an emergency demands that, you leave early, try to do so between selections or at intermission, and please leave as inconspicuously as possible.
4. **The only acceptable response at a performance is applause** and the type of performance dictates this. At a jazz concert, it is appropriate to applaud each soloist during a selection. At other performances by large and small music ensembles, it is appropriate to applaud at the end of a selection. Do not applaud between the movements of a work. This applies to senior recitals as well as major concerts in dance, theatre arts and music.
5. Do not bring food, drink or gum into any performance area.
6. Do not exhibit such crass behavior as reading, doing homework, talking, sleeping, or propping feet on the chair in front of you during a performance. Off-campus guests regularly attend our concerts and recitals and it is important that they do not have a negative opinion of your manners.
7. Do not yell or scream “greetings” to a performer, and do not wave to or otherwise try to get the attention of a performer. These actions can unnerve a performer.
8. Do not take flash pictures during a performance. This, too, can unnerve performers.
9. If you invite friends from other schools to a performance, do speak with them about what is acceptable behavior at an HSPVA performance.
10. At all times be tolerant of the efforts of others on stage and be understanding if someone makes an error. Laughing at performers’ mistakes is very unacceptable.
11. Do not yell, scream or wave at members of a stage crew. Do not applaud stage crewmembers. We all appreciate their efforts, but applauding their work on stage is not good performance hall etiquette. Speak with them after the performance.
12. At all times conduct yourself in a way that reflects your personal character and the high esteem in which you hold the arts
13. Reserve standing ovations for the end of a performance – that is, if the performance deserves the standing ovation.