

Visual Story

Hidden Curriculum: Attending a Sydney Symphony Orchestra Concert

«SYDNEY»
«SYMPHONY»
«ORCHESTRA»



Before the Concert

- When you enter the Concert Hall the musicians might already be playing their instruments. This is so the musicians can make sure their instruments are prepared for the performance and sound right. This is called “**tuning**”.
- The musicians will not be playing the same music altogether and this can sometimes be loud. If it is too loud, you can put headphones on.
- When the musicians are playing their instruments, you are allowed to talk, use your phone and take photos.



Before the Concert

- When you arrive at your seat row, other audience members may already be seated. **You might find it hard to get to your seat** as the space between the seat and the next row is narrow.
- You can move carefully along the row and hold your items close to you so you don't bump into people. If you would like to avoid this, you can enter the Concert Hall half an hour before the concert begins.
- If the environment is too loud, you can wear headphones or leave the Concert Hall and sit down in a quiet area.



Before the Concert

Right before the concert starts the **lights will dim**.
This will let you know that the concert is about to begin.



Before the Concert

- Sometimes a musician will make an **announcement** and other times there will be an announcement from the speaker system. You must be quiet, turn your phone to silent and not take photos.
- The announcement will usually include **an Acknowledgement of Country, an introduction to the music, and some rules to help everyone enjoy the concert.**
- After the Sydney Symphony musician has finished speaking the lights will dim more. This will let you know that the concert is starting.



During the Concert

- After the lights dim the **conductor will come on stage**. You can clap if you want to.
- Other audience members will clap.
If the environment becomes too loud, you can wear headphones or leave the Concert Hall and sit down in a quiet place.
- After the clapping, the **conductor will turn to face the musicians**, and the concert will begin.
- After each piece is finished the **conductor will turn around to face the audience** and the musicians will stand up, this means you can clap if you want to.



During the Concert

- After the applause has finished the **conductor will leave the stage**, and the **musicians will sit down**.
- The conductor may leave the stage and come back on to the stage a few times if the applause continues. You can choose to clap when they come back on if you want to.
- If you get overwhelmed, **you can leave the Concert Hall at any time** and find a quiet area to sit and re-regulate.
- **You may not be able to re-enter the Concert Hall until there is an appropriate pause in the music.** This could be a long time.
- An usher will let you know when you can re-enter the Concert Hall.



During Interval

- The **interval** will begin when the lights go back to their full brightness.
- If you are tired or feel overwhelmed, you can choose to leave the Concert Hall or go home during the interval.
- The interval will last **20 minutes**.
- You can choose to stay in your seat and wait, go to the bathroom, or walk around or buy some food or drink from one of the foyer bars.



Coming back after Interval

- An announcement will play through the speaker system at **10 minutes, 5 minutes, and 1 minute** before the next half of the concert begins. This tells you that the concert will begin again soon.
- If the announcement is too loud, **you can put on headphones** or return to your seat in the Concert Hall where the announcement does not play.



After Interval – Second Half of the Concert

- After the interval and when the concert is beginning again the musicians will be **sitting on the stage** and **the lights will dim**.
- Then the conductor will return to the stage. You can clap with the other audience members if you want to.
- If the environment becomes too loud, you can wear headphones or leave the Concert Hall and sit down in a quiet place.
- **The lights will dim and the conductor will turn towards the musicians again.** This means the second half of the concert is about to begin.



After the end of the Concert

**At the end of the last piece, the conductor will
turn around to face the audience,
and the musicians will stand up.**

You can clap if you want to.



After the end of the Concert

- The conductor may **point to some of the musicians** and **ask them to stand up** – you can choose to clap if you want to. The conductor may do this a few times.
- If the environment becomes too loud, you can wear headphones or leave the Concert Hall and sit in a quiet area or you can also choose to exit the Sydney Opera House and go home.
- Again, the conductor may leave the stage and come back on to the stage a few times. You can choose to clap when they come back on if you want to.



After the end of the Concert

- When the concert has ended, people will begin to leave the Concert Hall.
- **It may become very loud and crowded. If it is too loud, you can wear headphones.**
- It might take a while for people to get up from their seats and leave.
- There may be long queues. **You may need to wait and be patient.**
- You can stay seated until most people have left the Concert Hall before leaving.



Thank you!

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See our guides below for further detailed information to help with your visit:

[How to Book a Ticket for a Concert](#)

[Sydney Symphony Orchestra concerts at the Sydney Opera House](#)

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