



Join Ronald McDonald and Friends
As they explore
CONCERT ETIQUETTE
During your "Concert Expedition!"

Hi Kids! Ronald and his friends want to let you know that concerts are fun if you follow the rules.

We enjoy music just like you. Most of us play in the Viterbo College Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, and help the musicians set up. Sometimes we get to play the trumpet and the guitar and other times we play the flute. We know all the instruments and musicians, and they know us!

We've been a part of every concert that has been played. Do you know why? We knew you did! We love music and want to make it fun! That's why we have been given the privilege of being your guide for going to the LSO.

When your school bus driver drops you at the door of Viterbo College Fine Arts Center, one of the ushers will lead you to your seats. **The ushers are volunteers from the Friends of the Symphony.** They enjoy classical music and donate their time to help you enjoy today's performance.

When you are seated, take a look around. I'll bet you'll say, "Wow! Ronald and his friends are lucky to play here!" You'll notice it is very clean, and the seats are luscious red. Take off your hat and coat.

Hey! Look at the stage! Our friends, the musicians, are coming out. They come out early and warm up, just like athletes. They warm up their lips, fingers, instruments, and brains. It may sound strange because

they're all playing something different, but don't worry – the best is yet to come.

When the lights go down in the auditorium there is one empty chair on the stage. The Concert Master enters the stage, takes a bow, and asks the oboe player to play an "A." All the musicians tune their instruments to that pitch, and then the Concert Master sits down. Now all the musicians are ready. Then Maestro Platt comes onto the stage. He takes a bow and then steps up onto an oval box, called the podium.

You can settle back in your seats now, as the concert is about to begin. With his hand, the conductor raises the stick, which is called a baton (the French word for stick). As he brings his hand down, you will hear glorious sounds come from our wonderful symphony orchestra.

The orchestra has told us how much they look forward to the programs they play for you. They play music that will make you feel many different ways. Composers write music. They create a mood to tell you how they feel. It is important that you stay very quiet so you can get their mood message.

The concert will last about 45 minutes. We know that it is difficult to sit still that long. There will be several pieces of music played, so do your wiggling during the applause.

After each piece of music, let the orchestra know that you like it by clapping.

Remember – you, the audience, are part of the performance. Without you, it would just be a rehearsal. The orchestra knows what it has to do. Here are some rhymes we've written to help you know what to do.

STAY IN THE HALL

When the bases are loaded and our man's at bat
bat
We stay glued in our seats, 'cause that's where it's at.
Or when that computer game gobbles up more
more
We stay till the end when we get the big score.
So let these examples be reminders to you
And don't leave the hall till our players are through.

SILENCE

A sound that travels through the hall
That some may think is very small
Can pierce the air and carry a word
So all around you will have heard
So please be kind,
And leave the talking behind.

CANDY WRAPPERS

Crinkle, crackle, what's that sound?
A piece of candy being unwound.
We know in the musical score it's not written,
So save it for after the show, it's more fittin'.

APPLAUSE

The conductor's the coach, and she leads the pack,
while the orchestra's playing, we just see her back.
We know that the players want lots of applause
but when the work's ended – not during a pause.
So when the music is done and the conductor puts her hands down - don't wait for her to turn around, start clapping a thunderous sound.

We are really looking forward to having you visit and listening to our friends play.

Ronald and Friends *know* you will be a great audience!



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Enjoy!!