

Manawatū Youth Orchestra Rehearsal Expectations

We are here to enjoy playing orchestral music together. These expectations help make our rehearsals satisfying.

To play in an orchestra, you are expected to **practice** your music at home so that you can play it. The **rehearsal** is only to practice putting everyone's notes together. We are working towards **performing** a concert.

General

1. The baton comes down for the first piece exactly at 6:30 pm each rehearsal. Players are to have set up the room, got their instruments out and tuned before then
2. Please advise the MYO Co-ordinator in advance if you are unable to attend a rehearsal – absence can affect rehearsal order
3. No visitors without agreement of the conductor
4. No playing other people's instruments (including percussion)

Room management

5. Everyone is expected to arrive at rehearsal before 6:30 pm to help set up the room – setting out chairs, putting out music stands. Aim to arrive by 6:20 pm
6. Everyone is expected to help tidy up the room at the end of the rehearsal, including folding up the music stands but only the percussionists are expected to pack up the percussion. Expect to leave at 8:40 pm
7. Everyone is expected to help set up and pack out the concert venue
8. Treat music stands with care – they bend easily

Rehearsals

9. Everyone comes to rehearsal with a 3B pencil and eraser. They stay in your music cases outside rehearsals. Music is only ever marked with a soft pencil and never with ink or highlighter
10. No talking during playing of pieces or rehearsal. Any talking during the rehearsal is only to organise section performance, e.g., bowings or dynamics
11. No cell phone use at all during rehearsal (except possibly if a player is sitting out the entire piece)
12. No playing instruments during the break. This rests everyone's ears. It also reduces the risk of occupational overuse syndrome

Other

13. No physical activities (e.g., wrestling, running, or similar) in the rehearsal room or lobby. Musical instruments are expensive – damage or break one and you will be liable for the repair or replacement costs
14. Individual players are responsible for the music they are issued with. The music and folders are to be looked after and returned immediately at the end of a concert or ceasing to play with the orchestra. Damaged or lost music or folder will be charged for
15. Parents or guardians are expected to deliver their musicians by 6:20 pm and be ready to pick them up promptly at 8:40 pm
16. Wind players are expected to transpose their parts themselves as appropriate

Orchestra leader and section leaders

17. Leaders are responsible for the conduct of their sections. They are expected as appropriate to:
 - a. Model and enforce orchestra expectations
 - b. Ensure their sections' music is fingered, bowed and articulated
 - c. Ensure their section members are all using the correct fingerings, bowings, articulations and dynamics

Most importantly we are here to enjoy making music together. Orchestral music-making is a very special experience and it is only in an orchestra that we can play orchestral music! Have fun!