

## Professional Rehearsal Practices

- Make sure you have all necessary equipment for the rehearsal (instrument, music, shoulder rest, cello belt, rock stop, rosin, sharpened pencil, etc.)
- Come prepared; study your music.
- Arrive on time. Late is never okay.
- If the principal player spaces out and doesn't come in on a solo during rehearsal, don't go jumping in.
- The conductor is the boss. If she/he asks you to play something in a different way, do it. If you are told to change something, do it. You have to do what the conductor says, musically speaking.
- Do not wear scents (perfume, cologne, etc.).
- Do not talk or be disruptive during a rehearsal. This includes counting measures of rest out loud or tapping your foot. Don't even mouth the counting. It is very distracting to the audience in a performance, and the way you rehearse is the way you perform. Also, don't grimace, shake your head, or react in any way when you make a mistake. Bad habits in rehearsal can lead to bad habits on stage; even if they are not done consciously.
- If you are sitting anywhere other than principal chair, never play the principal's solos while warming up. It's just not done...even at rehearsals. Don't play other instruments' solos either.
- Do not text-message during rehearsals and concerts. I realize you might think no one notices, but we do. It's rude.
- Don't conduct. You may think you know more than the conductor. You may think that you can do a better job. And this could even be true, but it's rude. Don't do it.
- Don't stare at one of your colleagues when you aren't playing, even if she/he has a solo. That way, if a mistake is made, you won't be accused of staring "because I made a horrible mistake..."
- Don't look at someone after he or she has made a mistake. We feel bad enough when we make mistakes, we don't need to know you know. Don't grimace, laugh, shake your head, or anything else. In other words: Don't React!