

Live-Live Concert Etiquette

Music

- Scan your music for your collaborative pianist in a clear, readable condition—free from excessive markings, cut edges, or foreign objects.
- Ensure the music is in the correct key. The pianist will not transpose on the day of performance.
- If you need scanning help, refer to the scanning instructions on creekfinearts.com under the Live/Live tab.

Attire

- Wear formal, stage-appropriate clothing
 - Dress-shirt or blouse, long pants, dress shoes or,
 - A dress of appropriate length
- Blazer and tie are optional
- Do not wear: Tank tops, shorts, gym clothes, sneakers
- For theatrical performances, please consult with your teachers for guidelines

Positioning

The performer stands or sits in the crook of the piano (the curve of a grand piano) where they can be seen by the collaborative pianist, facing the audience. Vocalists can have their hands naturally at sides or in front, they may choose to rest one hand on the piano.

Walking On Stage

The soloist walks on first, followed by the collaborative pianist; wait for your pianist to arrive. Make eye contact with them, then look at the audience before bowing.

Introduction and Tuning

Before performing, after the applause, briefly introduce yourself:

1. First and last name
2. Grade level
3. Title of the piece
4. Composer's name (include the name of the lyricist for music theater pieces)
5. For art songs, please state the language of your piece and give a one-sentence synopsis.

Instrumental Example:

"Good morning. My name is Jidong Zhong, and I am an 11th grader. Today I will be performing the Piano Sonata, Op. 110 in A-flat major by Beethoven."

Art song example:

“Good morning, my name is Jidong Zhong and I’m a senior. Today I will be singing *Im wunderschönen Monat Mai* from *Dichterliebe* by Robert Schumann. This piece is in German and is about the beautiful scenery in May, and the love for another person.”

Music Theater example:

“Good morning, my name is Jidong Zhong, I am a 10th grader. Today I will be singing *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Misérables* by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Herbert Kretzmer.”

Starting Your Performance

Vocalists: After you introduce yourself, remain facing the audience and gently lower your head. Wait 2-3 seconds; center yourself and slowly raise your head to face the audience. This will be the cue for the pianist to begin; there is no need to nod or otherwise gesture to the pianist to begin.

Instrumentalists: After you introduce yourself and your piece you will tune. You should communicate with your pianist beforehand what concert pitch you need for tuning. After tuning, remain facing the audience. This will be the cue for the pianist to begin; there is no need to nod or otherwise gesture to the pianist to begin.

Tempo

- Discuss tempo and tempo changes (*accelerando*, *ritardando*, etc.) with your pianist before the performance.
- If the introduction is too fast or too slow, don’t panic—perform at your chosen tempo; your pianist will follow.
- Remember: You are the soloist, and you control the tempo.

Walking Off

After your performance, look at the audience, bow as they applaud. Acknowledge your pianist by extending your right arm toward them, palm up. After they stand, bow together to the audience and walk off the stage

Mistakes and Accidents

- Mistakes happen—even to the best musicians.
- If you forget lyrics, miss notes, or come in at the wrong spot: keep going. Most of the audience won’t notice.
- If you cannot continue, stop; your pianist will create an ending for you.
- No matter how you feel about your performance, smile, bow, and leave the stage gracefully—it shows respect for yourself and your audience.