

What Not to Wear on the Podium.... Proper Performance Attire!

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Colorado ASTA, Inc.

Summer Conference - Tuesday, July 12, 2016 - 2:40-3:10

King Center, MSU

Conducting is the art of directing a musical performance, such as a concert, by way of visible gestures. The primary duties of the conductor are to unify performers, set the tempo, execute clear preparations and beats (meter), and to listen critically and shape the sound of the ensemble. [1] Communication is non-verbal during a performance, however in rehearsal frequent interruptions allow the conductor to give verbal directions as to how the music should be played or sung.

Conductors act as guides to the orchestras, bands and/ensembles conduct. They choose the works to be performed and study their scores to which they may make certain adjustments, work out their interpretation, and relay their vision to the performers. They may also attend to organizational matters, such as scheduling rehearsals. [2] Orchestras, choirs, concert bands and other sizable musical ensembles such as big bands are usually led by conductors.

First Impressions Count!

Reflect:

What image are you projecting or capturing ~ how will you be remembered?

The more accomplished the better you have to dress. Your appearance (image) is important. Your audience and will appreciate as reflect prominence as a privileged role in performance.

Basic Go-To ideas:

Combine comfort, style, fashion and personal preference to present a polished presentation. Your look and performance reputation is important and a direct reflection on your professionalism. Our audiences and adjudicators have definitive responses and reactions to our stage presence.

Your audience listens with their eyes as well as their ears.

Your Concert Attire is the background for your baton ~ make the baton clearly visible. White will make it disappear

Jacket length -

On Stage - It's all about the Music!

From too snug to stellar! Prominence on the podium without performance Faux Pas!

Be a memorable image and influence to your students, audience, and community! Are you inspirational or a distraction?

Are you spectacular, memorable or have a questionable appearance?

Always a thoughtful Professional look. Make your attire suitable to enhance your ensemble.

Your Presence - Customize your look:

Alternative dress ~ What's your Program Context?

Whatever the occasion - Always Dress Professionally

Advocate a specialized meaningful, supportive presence for future generations.

What's the venue or occasion?

Plan ahead! Match your programming and repertoire.

Baroque Masquerade Ball, Fiddle Tune/Barn Dance, Pop, Rock to Alternative Styles

School, honor concerts, festival, contest, theme, specialty performances.

Expect nothing less than you expect from your students.

Student requirements ~ match conductor requirements.

How will you be remembered?

Our Audiences:

Offer your listeners, concertgoers, adjudicators a comfortable, memorable opportunity to experience the power and passion of live music. This is an enriching occasion that everyone should enjoy at least once in a while.

Prepare your heart and mind for a great adventure and enjoy the time spent taking pleasure in the sound of music.

Keep it Simple and Special.

Social Media ~ Remember: You will be photographed and filmed.

You never know who's looking ~ Do you have audience appeal or repellent. An accomplished professional music educator will be forever remembered in pictures, video and social media!

Freshen up your wardrobe!

Beautiful Music deserves quality presentation ~ So, Test Run your Outfit!

Classic, Clean, Comfortable and Formal

Formal to Fun! Sparkles, glitz, sequins and bling!

Appropriate - Do's

Show that you care, make an effort, and be the exemplary example.

Black - quality fabric and preferably same or better than ladies in orchestra

Hair off the face - Make up - keep it simple

Neck line - Flattering/modest

Classic and formal - dressy!

Sleeves

Floor length

Tunic (3/4 length /Slacks

Jewelry - modest

Formal Shoes - black, comfortable, clean

Inappropriate - Don'ts

Questionable Fashion Choices

Nothing that draws attention from the music!

No bare arms, backs or legs

No cleavage or questionable neckline

Length of dress - ankle or length or formal (appropriate hem length)

Nothing wrinkled,

Nothing tight, visible undergarment delineation

Avoid Trendy 'Red Carpet' moments

Nothing short, tight or low in the front

Dangly, bangle or risky jewelry

Over the top sparkles

No leggings

No flip flops, crocks, athletic shoes or casual

Open toe

Access your personal physique ~ physical awareness ~ allow unrestricted movement:

Front, side, and back view ...

Appropriate jacket, pant, and skirt length. Avoid too tight, pulling, stretching or tugging.

Buttoned or unbuttoned jacket?

Double check everything! Zipped, buttoned, tucked in... don't look like you just got off the bus.

Quick once-over - look in the mirror or have a buddy system

Makeup faux pas lipstick to lunch

Move like your music~ unrestricted movement.

Your Look!

Tuxedo, Formal ~ Quality Tailoring ~ Custom made and tailored - highly encouraged.

Personal Preferences and Formal vs. Flashy

School performances, Contest vs. Gigs and Weddings

Make certain you know the difference

Bottom line...

Does your look enhance or distract?

Project professionalism ~ What's your image? Formal, flashy or informal...

Having a good **stage presence** is crucial to creating an engaging and lasting performance. While talent and practice are of course essential to any creative performance, nervous body language or certain baton patterns, or distracting attire can kill the energy on stage. Whatever the performance venue, good stage presence gives the crowd the impression that you are in control and having fun. Most importantly, developing confidence with complete full preparation in both your art and your ability to be a good performer will keep the crowd excited and energized throughout the performance, and leave them wanting more.

Slide Show: Do's & Don'ts

Questions and Comments

<http://www.cello.org/heaven/mbarchs/march3/femcond.htm>