



Behaviour on Stage Policy

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DOCUMENT HISTORY		
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1	New policy Nov 2022	-
2	Policy reviewed May 2023	LWC Committee 15.5.23

Behaviour and Appearance Expectations Whilst On Stage

Our aim when we go on stage is to enhance our performance by being as professional in our behaviour and appearance as possible, as this will contribute to how our audience perceives and hears the choir.

We all know that when we stand on a hill and look out over a quiet, green valley, our eyes will immediately be drawn to the single, tiny car moving in the distance or to the sparkling, white cottage standing out against the green of the fields and trees.

In the same way, as our audience gazes at the choir on stage, little differences can distract and draw their attention away from the whole.

This means that an important key to maintaining a polished, professional and harmonious appearance on stage is to avoid looking and behaving in ways that will distract the audience's attention from our performance.

Behaviour

We want to convey that we are calm and in control whatever we actually feel, so we need to keep the noise down whilst waiting in the wings to go on stage.

Whilst on stage we are in performance mode and should always strive to appear composed and professional, even if we don't always feel it! Whilst seated on stage, conversations should be discreet and limited to immediate neighbours. We must not lean over or twist round to talk to people further afield.....and professional choirs never engage with or wave at friends and family in the audience!

Whilst singing, not only will looking down at our music all the time, rather than looking at Keith, detract from our performance, choir members showing the tops of their heads will be noticed and will worry and distract our audience.

We may be trying hard to do our best but our audience will find it easier to relax and give themselves up to our music if they feel 'safe in our hands'. So we not only have to be committed, we need to look completely committed, engaged and enjoying our singing.

Folders

As we walk onto the stage folders should be held in our right hands with a straight arm and held in this position until we see the agreed signal to sit. Folders should be closed at the end of both halves of the programme. When leaving the stage, folders should, once again, be held in the right hand with a straight arm.

Reflect on how best to not distract the audience when not singing, either seated or standing. When folders are open, turn your pages quietly and discreetly, and keep folders in a position to avoid distracting the audience with flashes of white music. Don't allow your folder to droop on your knee particularly if sitting in full view of the audience!

Jewellery

Jewellery should be avoided or be very discreet so that nothing will stand out or catch the lights on stage.

Uniform

It's not always easy but if we can manage to drape scarves in a similar way showing a similar length in front, not too near the neck or too low, this will avoid the audience getting an up and down effect along each row.

Skirts and trousers should be smart and black, never black jeans, and to achieve consistency, hemlines should fully touch our shoes to avoid an untidy up and down effect once again. Tights need to be black, preferably matt black to achieve uniformity, and anyone wearing skin coloured tights should be aware that to the audience this flash of pale colour will really stand out.

Any bags taken on stage should be small and discreet, and whilst bottles of water are fine on stage during rehearsal, they should never be taken on stage for the actual performance.

Perfumes and aftershave

This is less about the audience and more about our fellow performers, including the orchestra (where applicable). It can get hot under the lights on stage and, let's face it, our tunics can get a bit sweaty. But it's important, no matter how tempted, to avoid using lots of aftershave and perfume as these can cause respiratory problems, migraines and watery /red eyes in some people, including those in the orchestra.

And above allenjoy the performance!

Sheila Hamilton
Uniform Officer

Reviewed May 2023