

# Rehearsal Etiquette

## Collaborative Culture Construction

Rehearsal Etiquette is fundamental to creating a positive and respectful learning environment. Traditional approaches to establishing appropriate rehearsal etiquette have frequently been authoritative, which leaves little opportunity for culturally responsive teaching and learning when the learners' life experiences are different from the instructor's.

Culture-building happens through dialogue that includes all participants and respects all experiences and understandings. Effective rehearsal etiquette behaviours and understandings are the product of guided collaborative planning and reflection around rehearsals and other learning experiences. As learners plan and reflect on their own behaviours and those of their learning partners, they can be guided to achieve consensus about best practices in formal learning opportunities (i.e., rehearsal etiquette).

Questions to help guide this process may include

- What are the benefits of proper posture?
- How does talking affect your ability to focus?
- What is happening when you do your best listening?
- What do you think about during silences? Multi-measure rests?
- How can you reduce distractions for others? For yourself?
- How do you focus on the conductor?
- What are you thinking while listening to your section? The rest of the ensemble?
- What happens just before you play your best sound?
- What allows you to stay focussed for an entire piece? Rehearsal? Performance?