

## A Beginners Guide to a Classical Performer



### 1. Being a public person

Any one who goes up and in front of a group of people has a responsibility and accountability to that group. You obviously wouldn't go in front in your night-dress or bathroom slippers. You can't say anything you want. You have to mind your language. Body language and gestures are keenly observed. Anything you say, do or act ... will determine whether you get the next chance to go up front. You may even be a professional being paid for this or someone who needs most of the group to look on you favourably.

### 2. Being a music performer

A music performer going up-front has a unique option. The performer can in-mind and body think and re-act exactly as a public speaker as above OR completely ignore everything and everyone and remain in a cocoon during the performance. Actually the choice is yours.

### 3. Some do's and don'ts

Having said that ... it does help to follow norm. 'Gals' wear an evening dress, hairdo and footwear; while 'Guys' are 'hair-groomed', wear a minimum of black leather shoes, black trousers and 'collar' white shirt. However no colour NOR other distracting

detail. If there is an 'orchestra or group' uniform then you don't have to worry – just wear that.

It helps if the audience feels that you are playing for them rather than to yourself.

Don't tune, tweak, adjust and fidget ... you SHOULD HAVE DONE ALL THIS BEFORE you went up.

Ensure the right order of your music and ensure the correct point of entry for you that is in the programme schedule for the event.

- i. Announce the piece, background, who, why, what, where, which, what ... perhaps standing - then sit down.
- ii. Clear start of piece.
- iii. Perform better than you ever have.
- iv. Clear end of the piece.
- v. Perhaps, stand and bow to accept applause.

If you are using a music stand; ensure uniformity with all other stands with the book or binder-back being similar to every other.

#### 4. Entertain

You are a part of the Entertainment Industry. You have a talent and you are there to exhibit it while entertaining your audience.

Do that to be best of your ability at that point in time. Most of all, learn to enjoy the experience.

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