



Baltimore Symphony Open Rehearsals

Thank you for your interest to attend the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) Open Rehearsal series for students at the **Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall**. The BSO Open Rehearsal series is an incredible opportunity to listen in to a working rehearsal of a professional symphony orchestra. This is a fantastic experience for young musicians (HS, MS, & college) to hear the process of the orchestra and conductor as they prepare for a performance. It can provide valuable insight for students who are already classical music lovers and performers.

Each rehearsal is **2.5 hours, with a 20-minute break**, about half-way through the rehearsal. The conductor may opt to stop and start the music. Some pieces may not be played in their entirety, and some pieces may be skipped altogether. Oftentimes, when the conductor stops, there will be dialogue between the conductor and the musicians, or between the musicians. Unfortunately, this dialogue is often difficult to hear in the audience.

We suggest **reviewing rehearsal/concert etiquette** with your students before arriving at the hall. Any distractions are very disruptive to the musicians on stage and jeopardize our ability to offer this exclusive opportunity to students in the future.

While an incredibly meaningful experience for some, it may not be the ideal listening experience for everyone. It is first and foremost a working rehearsal for the orchestra and offers observers a window into that experience with professionals. Younger students or students without a music background are strongly encouraged to attend the BSO's Midweek series. The Midweek Concerts are curated performances specifically designed for students, and provide a welcoming, inviting, and encouraging way to experience a symphony orchestra.

If the open rehearsal sounds like the right experience for you/your students, please be advised of the following policies:

- All attendees must be in high school, middle school music, or college. HS or MS students must be accompanied by an adequate number of chaperones. Please provide school identification upon arrival.
- All attendees must be at least 10 years of age. Any children under the age of 10 will not be admitted to the Open Rehearsal.
- **All attendees must be seated by 9:50am** and are strongly encouraged to arrive 30 minutes prior to the rehearsal start time.

- There will be no late seating permitted. Students who arrive late may wait in the lobby until the orchestra's official break. Students must be supervised in the lobby while they wait.
- Attendees must stay for the duration of the rehearsal. Early dismissal will only be permitted at the official orchestra break.
- **Students must be supervised at all times inside the venue.**
- Please refrain from leaving the Concert Hall during the rehearsal. Restroom usage should be before the rehearsal or during the designated 20-minute break.
- Even for the most initiated of listeners, the open rehearsal can be a challenging listening environment. Please bring adequate staff to supervise your students. We suggest a minimum of 1 chaperone per 10 students.
- Restrooms are located on both sides of the Orchestra level seats, but are not available while the rehearsal is taking place (except in an emergency). Please note that in the event that a student must leave, they will not be re-admitted until the official orchestra break.
- The use of cell phones, audible watches, pagers or any devices that make noise are extremely disturbing to the rehearsal process. Please put all devices on silent mode when you enter the auditorium. Also, please note that **photography and recording devices are prohibited while the orchestra is rehearsing** but we encourage attendees to take video or still photography or share on social media before and after the event or during intermission.

Food and beverages are not permitted in the venue.

If students are assigned a project to complete during the rehearsal, please be mindful to not have papers rustling or other disruptive behaviors.

Thank you again, and if you have any questions about your visit, please do not hesitate to contact the **BSO Education team** at education@bsomusic.org or by phone at **410-783-8018**.

Baltimore Symphony Education Team:

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