

Rehearsal Etiquette for the Trombonist

Always be on time and in your seat at least 8 minutes before the down beat

- Even if you are at the hall very early, the personnel manager must see you in your chair. Don't give the impression you are arriving at the last minute

Always make eye contact and or acknowledge the personnel manager or contractor at a gig.

- Do not talk to the conductor before a rehearsal unless he or she approaches you.

If at a gig, try to thank the personnel manager before leaving the last concert – he or she is already beginning to think about the next round of phone calls he or she has to make.

If in a rehearsal series in an orchestra – try to in make eye contact with the conductor outside of rehearsal or during a break and give the director an opportunity to approach you.

Never ever ask a conductor how you are doing! Never engage in chit chat or dialogue with the director for any reason. This is the advice of members in the New York Philharmonic. Directors will feel compelled to think of something to say to avoid telling you your doing a great job.

Principal

- count for the entire section
- make eye contact with the director before every big entrance
- quietly and discreetly get the attention of the rest of your section if the conductor begins to address the low brass (not everyone is paying attention)
- always speak politely and with respect to the rest of your section – never waive off the section or make huge gestures to drive home a point
- try to avoid ever appearing or acting frustrated with any situation
- listen to the principal trumpet – it is your job to make him or her sound like a king

Second

- fuse the gap between the principal and the bass by passing along information
- always know your position in the chord and adjust
- pay attention to style so that the bass can be on the same page as the principal
- point out tuning issues with caution and care
- it is your job to make the principal trombone sound like a king

Bass

- don't bury anyone ever – know your money notes and entrances
- look engaged
- its your job to fuse the gap between the second and the tuba
- be aware of the principal yet tune to the second

- it is your job to sound like a king
- Always have a pencil in view

If the director makes a comment that is even remotely relevant to the section – take a pencil and write something, even if you are pretending to write.

Principal Euph in the Marine Band always kept a pencil behind his ear for this reason

If you have a cell phone or reading material in a gig, never use it in a movement that you are playing – only for tacet mvts.

Be aware of your posture when you rehearse and perform. Don't slouch or place your head in your hands or rest your elbows on your knees.

Don't visibly yawn

Don't scratch anything thinking you will not be seen – you will

Check your rehearsal schedule every day

Look at your email four times a day for changes or notices

Have a date book at every rehearsal very near by so if someone asks you about a gig you can give them an answer immediately.

Have a business card that is unassuming and to the point

Don't clutter the rehearsal space with all of your paraphernalia (water bottles, phones, keys, mute bags, cases and bling)

Take your hat off indoors and never let a conductor see you wearing a cap.

Dress professionally and stylish at gig rehearsals – no slumming or grunge – try doing this now so you will be in the habit when you work

Don't ever play excerpts on stage before a concert or gig. Don't play all of the loud sections into the back of the cello section before every rehearsal – maybe one

Don't stay on stage during breaks and have a sectional – schedule a time at least 30 minutes prior or afterwards – keep in mind that the harp has to get their early to tune

More to come.....