

SM Independent REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE AND COMMANDS

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We hold our members to a high professional standard in performance and rehearsal. A defined rehearsal etiquette is implemented to ensure all members receive accurate information and fully participate in rehearsal. All members will follow this rehearsal etiquette to maintain a professional atmosphere and to allow for the greatest potential for achieving excellence. The following is the sequence of commands and gestures given during one assignment in rehearsal.

COMMANDS

“Stand-by” — Front Ensemble members will hold their sticks/mallets relaxed by their side. Battery percussionists will stand in first position and put their sticks together on the drum, right hand on top of the other. Bass drums will place their mallets in their mallet rack and cymbals will hold their cymbals in front of their waist. Head and eyes of all members are directed towards the press box and instructors where instructions and assignments will be given. The members will not speak unless answering a specific question asked by an instructor.

At this point, the instructor leading the rehearsal, or the box will give the assignment: **“Going from/ taking sets __ to __.”** Or if only one set: **“Taking __ counts to set __.”**

“Set” — Members will bring their instrument or equipment to playing position (unless otherwise called for in the show) and put their feet in the “minus 1” position (left foot is placed one step in the direction of the previous drill chart). Members will loudly verbally repeat the last set of instructions provided by the drum major or box. (example: 24 counts, or Top to Set 3A).

Metronome Gives 8 Counts and Assignment Begins

At the end of the assignment, for visual rehearsals (learning drill) members will stop in the “minus 1” position. For music rehearsals or when defined, members will continue to the “plus 1” position, or 1 count into the next set. In music rehearsal, electronics/winds (if utilized) will sustain the release of the assignment if applicable. Percussion will always play to the downbeat.

“Check” — Members will again go to the “minus 1” position and check the drill form with their EYES ONLY (Do not turn the head to look at form). There are no adjustments at this time. Instruments and equipment are still in playing position.

“Adjust” — Members will move heads & upper bodies to see what adjustments are necessary, then make those adjustments with the feet. Sticks are still up and feet return to +1/-1 after making whatever visual adjustments necessary

“Stand-by” — Members return to stand-by position as defined above

At this point, the box will give comments. All members will have their attention to the box. Sections/individual members will raise their hand when addressed so the box knows they are engaged in rehearsal and effectively receiving the information. If not being addressed, reflect on your own performance, and think of what adjustments need to be made for the next rep.

“Field/Floor” — Section leaders and field staff may give a quick, concise comment to their section or individual members. If a “field” is not given, comments may be delivered on a reset assignment. Avoid giving comments if the rehearsal moves on to the next assignment.

QUICK CHECKS

“Quick Check” is a process for repping a large chunk while allowing quick adjustments in between sets. For Quick Checks, the assignment will be given in terms of the large chunk. On the “Set” command, members will verbally repeat the large chunk and “quick checks.” The box will confirm the number of counts of the first set. At this point, the metronome will give 8 counts and the members will complete the first set, stopping in the plus-one for music rehearsals, or in the minus-one for visual rehearsals (learning drill). Vocals will be defined for a given chunk.

PLAYING ASSIGNMENTS

Different playing assignments will be given for certain assignments. These building blocks will strengthen the music ensemble by allowing for dissection of the playing environment and listening/watching responsibilities.

“Moving Only” — No music is played. Instruments are still in the defined position for the assignment.

“Playing In Spot” — Music ONLY rep, moving feet in time with the drill, but marching in place.

“Battery Only” — the on-field battery percussion will play the rep. Front Ensemble will listen at the stand-by position

“Front Ensemble Only” — the front ensemble will play the rep. Battery will be told to stand and listen or to march the chunk.

“Counting” – Defined members count each step of a set loudly

“Everyone In” — All members are playing the assignment.