

CKC RISER ETIQUETTE

Honour thy Director She knows what she's doing

Believe that your Director knows what she's doing and restrain yourself from offering advice on how to run the chorus (or any other topic) while standing on the risers.

Ten second rule

If the Director has not addressed the chorus within ten seconds, then you can talk quietly with your riser neighbour until the Director resumes.

Listen, don't correct

Often when there's a pause, chorus members try to correct their mistakes or those of their neighbours. Although this may seem important, RESIST. You will miss important comments from the Director that affect everyone in the chorus. Bear in mind that the Director fixes all the problems eventually.

Listen, don't sing along

When the Director is demonstrating how to sing a particular passage, listen. Do not sing with her. She's usually doing that to demonstrate micro-differences in pitch, nuances of vocal quality, or in some cases, notes or words. If you sing with her, you keep yourself and everyone else from hearing her, and instead, you become the example. That keeps us all from learning from the expert

Listen, don't distract

When the Director is speaking to the chorus or another section, listen. Don't pass the time singing, reviewing your part or talk. It makes it difficult for all of us to pay her proper attention and to learn, because we're instead paying at least some attention to you.

Shushing

Please do not shush others on the risers. This is distracting for all, if we all follow riser etiquette and pay attention to what is happening out front there will be no need for others to feel they need to do this.

Listen, don't sing

When the Director is working with another section or sections, listen. Don't sneak-sing your part with them (unless she asks you to). You may think no one will notice, but it's guaranteed the Director will notice, and be distracted by it.

Listen to the pitch, don't hum

When the pitch pipe is sounding, listen. Don't hum the pitch. It keeps you and everyone else from hearing the pitch accurately.

Wait to be invited

Plan to arrive on time; but if you arrive late, or step down from the risers and are returning, simply stand on the side and wait until invited by the Director to take your place. Don't stop to do anything else on the way.

Don't cross the Director

If you need to step down for any reason, stay on the risers until there's a break in the singing, then step down and leave quietly. If you need to cross to the other side of the risers, walk behind the risers if possible or walk behind the Director instead. Under no circumstances should you ever cross in front of the Director while getting on the risers.

Wait your turn

If the Director is debriefing with Assistant Directors, Music Team or Management Team after rehearsal, wait until they have finished before talking to them.

Watch

Watch the Director at all times.