

## SANTA CRUZ CHAMBER PLAYERS: FIRST TIMER'S GUIDE

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If you are a first-time concert goer, it is perfectly natural to wonder what kind of experience you might expect at your concert. The most important thing to remember is: *relax and enjoy the music! There is absolutely no reason to stress, and, you are going to have a VERY GOOD TIME!*

In the hope of making your first classical music concert as pleasant and memorable as possible, here are some answers to questions that you may have.

### 1. What is chamber music? Is it different from classical music?

*Chamber music* is a very special kind of music that is performed (and listened to) in a small concert hall or room (“chamber”), and is usually performed by 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 musicians. The musician can create fascinating combinations of instruments, including strings (harps, violins, violas, cellos, and basses), or woodwinds (clarinets, oboes, flutes, or bassoons), or brass (trumpets, French horns, trombones, or tubas), or percussion (drums, xylophones, or bells). The piano is a very important part of chamber music, and, frequently joins the other instruments. Sometimes you may hear delightful singers as well. When you are at a chamber music concert, you likely will sit fairly close to the musicians as they make music for you. This provides a unique, intimate, and very special listening experience.

*Classical music* is a general term describing a wide range of musical styles found in Western and other cultures’ “art” music. In the West, it can be performed by large orchestras or small chamber groups alike. You are likely to hear Western classical music at your chamber music concert, but it’s equally possible that you will hear many other wonderful styles of music as well.

### 2. Will I enjoy the Santa Cruz Chamber Players concert?

Absolutely. Chamber music is a magnificent form of expression that includes humor, depth, beauty, transparency, varied tonal colors, and very often, entertaining surprises along the way.

### 3. Will I hear music I have heard before?

Probably! But one of the great joys of chamber music is hearing a hauntingly beautiful melody for the very first time. You may well recognize far more than you might realize, since so many of today’s commercials, television shows, and movies use chamber music as inspiration.

### 4. How can I tell what music I will be hearing ahead of time?

The list of songs that you will hear will be available in the program that you will be handed when you come to the concert. But, if you want, you can see that list of songs and read about each song ahead of time by going to the Santa Cruz Chambers web site and reading the program notes at

<http://www.scchamberplayers.org>. You don't *have* to read these notes ahead of the concert, but, you may learn some very interesting things about the music you will be listening to!

## 5. What if I would like to attend more than one concert this season?

A subscription to multiple concerts is an excellent way to attend more than one Santa Cruz Chamber Players concert for this or any season. When you buy a subscription, you buy tickets to all the remaining available concerts (and become a subscriber). Subscribers enjoy benefits that purchasers of single tickets don't receive, such as lower ticket prices and email concert reminders. You can become a subscriber at any time during the concert season, as it is *always* a great way to save money and avoid the disappointment of a sold-out concert. To become a subscriber phone: 831-425-3149 or go to <http://www.scchamberplayers.org/>.

## 6. What should I wear to a Santa Cruz Chamber Players concert?

Most concert goers dress in casual "nice" attire, so formal clothing is not ever expected or required. You can wear what you would wear to a party or other social gathering, and you will fit right in. You should absolutely dress comfortably and add or subtract layers to accommodate sudden changes of temperature in the hall: sweater, light jacket, and the like.

## 7. When should I clap?

Most of the time you clap only after a piece is finished. The program helps you see how many parts or movements make up the piece you are listening to. Almost always, there is a short break between the movements of a piece, usually between 15 and 30 seconds. If you count pauses, you can use the program to follow which movement is currently being played. If you're unsure, it's perfectly OK to wait until the rest of the audience claps before you join in.

## 8. What about other noises such as talking, smart phones, or pagers?

You will notice audience members talk to each other only when the music isn't playing, and in fact you should not talk while the musicians are performing. Additionally, you should silence cell phones, Smartphones, blackberries, and pagers before the concert starts, because noises such as incoming text messages or phone calls are very distracting to other members of the audience and to the musicians. Please do not record the concert in part or in whole, as this is illegal. Being sensitive to your neighbors during the concert allows each and every attendee to have a more pleasant concert experience.

## 9. How long is the concert? Can I bring the kids?

We recommend that you don't bring young children under the age of 6 to chamber concerts, as the concerts usually consist of a 45-minute first half; a 20-minute intermission (snacks and drinks are available for purchase); and a 45-minute second half. A special concert called ***Celebrating Youth*** is performed every May, where young county musicians present a chamber concert for all ages to enjoy. Click on the ***Celebrating Youth*** link to learn more about this program:

<http://www.scchamberplayers.org/concert-celebrate-youth.html>.

## 10. What about parking?

There is plenty of parking at Christ Lutheran Church, where all of our concerts take place. Parking for those with limited mobility is available near the entry doors, and the parking lot is paved and lit for evening performances. Extremely popular concerts may sell out. In that event, additional parking is available on the street adjacent to the parking lot. If the parking lot is full, we recommend that you drop off your concert goers at the front door, and then find parking in the main lot or on the nearby street. It is a short walk back to the church, but it is uphill and should be walked slowly and with care.

## 11. How can I learn more about the Santa Cruz Chamber Players?

The Santa Cruz Chamber Players is a nonprofit organization designed to promote chamber music and local musicians. Please visit our web site at <http://www.scchamberplayers.org> for more information.

## 12. KUSP Rebroadcasts

All SCCP concerts are recorded for re-broadcast on KUSP (88.9 FM). Check your program for details or the KUSP website for details: <http://www.kusp.org/>