

The following **Code of Practice** has been agreed between the **Musicians' Union** and the **Association of British Orchestras**.

It sets out minimum health and safety standards and good working practices which if followed will assist you to comply with the Law.

Risk Assessment: A risk assessment shall be carried out of all areas of concern to performers to include noise risk assessment(s). You may need to refer to specific health and safety legislation as part of your risk assessment procedure i.e. Control of Noise at Work Regulations; Electricity at Work Regulations. For Fire safety reference must be made to the Government document found here: [Fire safety risk assessment: open-air events and venues](#)

- 1. Directions/Map:** A site plan shall be provided by the promoter/engager, giving entrance and fast-track coded exit sign(s) to assist performers in finding the location of the engagement. There should be separate fast-track exit(s) or priority exit(s) for performers in order for them to leave the venue before the audience wherever possible.
- 2. Parking Facilities:** Parking for performers shall be separate from public car parking and as close to the stage as practicable.
- 3. Access to Stage:** There shall be at least 2 access points for performers to approach the stage. At all times access from the car park and changing areas to the stage area and from ground level to the stage itself should be safe, well-lit with non-slip surfaces and handrails on all ramps/steps.
- 4. Changing/Warm-up facilities:** Shall be: Weatherproof; Well-lit and secure enough to be able to leave instruments and personal clothing and shall have:
 - Sufficient chairs, tables and clothes rails and with floor covering.
 - Separate changing facilities for both male and female performers.
- 5. Toilets:** There shall be separate male and female toilets with at least one toilet/wash station with running hot and cold water per ten men/women for the exclusive use of performers/crew to be kept in a clean and orderly condition.
- 6. Refreshments/Catering Facilities:** Drinking water to be available at all times. Wherever possible hot and cold food to be made available to performers.
- 7. Insurance:** It is the responsibility of the promoter/engager to be covered by full Public Liability and Indemnity Insurance.
- 8. On-stage Lighting:** Shall be adequate and tested before the rehearsal to ensure that the performer is not blinded and can see the music.
- 9. Lighting Levels:** Lighting levels for music stands to be adequate (700 Lux).
- 10. Seating and Music Stands:** Shall be suitable for performing and sited to provide adequate space for performers. The use of plastic stackable seats should be avoided and every effort should be made to ensure that proper seating is available for all performers
- 11. Raised Stage/Performance Area(s):** Shall be protected by railings or battens, to prevent performers falling from the platform. Risers: when used, should be safe, fit for purpose with battens to avoid any falls (see [Sound Advice Guidance](#)).
- 12. Electrical Supply:** All electrical supplies (to include portable appliances) should be safe and tested in accordance with appropriate Legislation and carry the necessary certificates.
- 13. Weather Protection:** Protection from the sun, wind and rain for all performers shall be provided both at rehearsals and at the concert.
- 14. Noise exposure:** The engager/promoter will abide by the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 and reference should be made to the Sound Advice Guidance Document (see [Sound Advice Guidance](#)).
- 15. Special Effects and Pyrotechnics:** Must be situated at a safe distance from performers so as not to exceed safe or tolerable noise levels. For further information on safe working practices refer to [Sound Advice Guidance Document](#) and [Events Safety Guide](#).
- 16. Fire Safety:** All performers should be made aware of the venue's fire evacuation procedure and on site fire wardens before rehearsals and before the concert commences. The engager/promoter/principal contractor will follow the advice in Fire safety risk assessment: [open-air events and venues](#).
- 17. First Aid:** All performers should be made aware of the on-site first aid facilities. A First Aider(s) must be available during rehearsal(s) and during performance(s).
- 18. Recording:** There shall be clear notices in the programme and announcements over the public address system reminding the audience that it is an offence under the 1988 Copyright Designs and Patents Act to record the performance or audio or video recorders unless proper consents have been obtained in advance.
- 19. Audiences at Rehearsals:** Audiences are not permitted during rehearsals. Where it is impossible to prohibit members of the public from attending a rehearsal, i.e. as a result of right of way or other public access at the venue, then they should be kept at a distance of not less than 150 metres from the front of the stage or a screen provided. The risk assessment and action plan shall include safety risks for inter-action between audience members and the performer/s.