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## *A Day in the Life of An Orchestra Musician*

### **The Rehearsal**

The musician :

- arrives early, before the start of the rehearsal, to warm up and organize the music
- sits on stage, in an assigned chair, ready for the start of the rehearsal
- waits for the concertmaster, or first violinist of the orchestra to stand to ask the oboe player for a tuning note, "A"
- tunes with the orchestra to this note
- watches the conductor for a downbeat to begin the rehearsal
- rehearses with the orchestra until the orchestra break that usually begins 60 or 75 minutes into the rehearsal
- breaks for 25 minutes, often taking a refreshment in the Green Room (cafeteria backstage for the artists)
- returns to the stage after the break to finish the rehearsal

There are up to five rehearsals for a "premier" series concert. The final rehearsal is called the "dress" rehearsal and is normally on the day of the concert.

Each rehearsal is two and a half-hours long with one 25 minute break in the middle. Rehearsals always start on time.

### **The performance**

The musician:

- dresses in a black tuxedo (with tails) for men and all black (pants, shirt, dress) for women
- arrives early to warm up and organize the music
- tunes with orchestra on hearing the "A" note
- performs at the downbeat of the conductor
- breaks approximately one hour into the performance for intermission
- returns after 25-minutes to finish the concert

Performances generally begin at 8:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m. There is one break in the middle so the audience and musicians can stretch their legs and refresh themselves.

The NAC Orchestra performs over 100 concerts each year from the Premier, Pops and Young People's Concerts series. Additionally, the Orchestra performs on tour within Canada and abroad, plays in the orchestra pit for ballet and opera, records and performs in summer concerts as part of the NAC Great Composers Festival.