

# R • E • D • O • A • K



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## **FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM WEARING GUIDE**

### **For Everyone**

- The concert uniform, unlike the marching uniform, stays at home with each student. You get dressed at home, and come fully dressed to the concert or event.
- You remain in full uniform from the time you arrive until you depart. Shirt tails remain tucked in at all times, and cummerbunds and bow ties stay on. The only exception is that the tuxedo jacket may occasionally be removed if it is warm, or when assisting with stage set-up/break-down, etc.
- During the season, keep the uniform clean as necessary. The girls' dresses can be washed in the washer at home. The tuxedo shirts can also be washed, dried, and ironed at home. \*Note: The tuxedo jacket and pants are dry-clean only, and shouldn't have to be taken to the cleaners but maybe once during the season, depending on how much wear they get (leave the bow-tie and cummerbund at home).
- If the tux pants or dress needs hemming, that is fine, but NO CUTTING of the fabric may be done. If you are inexperienced with hemming, please get some assistance from someone who knows how to do a clean hem.
- These are fairly expensive clothing items, and they are on LOAN to the students. They are expected to always be hung up properly and kept in good condition at home while checked out. Any damage to the uniform may result in a replacement charge being assessed for us to buy a new item.

### **Girls Formal Concert Dresses**

- The dress is worn with black dress shoes, with appropriate black hosiery for a long formal concert dress. The dress shoes CAN be an open toed shoe, but sandal-type shoes/flip-flops etc. may not be worn.
- Hair should be neatly arranged/done for a formal dress. Pony-tails or other informal styles would be considered inappropriate for a formal look. Make-up should be done without any dramatic uses of color that would detract from the formal look of the dress. Nail polish should be subtle and complementary to the dress.
- Subtle jewelry that complements the dress is fine. Small earrings, necklaces, etc. are all okay. A small bracelet is also okay, as long as it doesn't interfere with the playing of your instrument. As a general rule, it is best to wear gold, silver, or pearls with formalwear.
- Make sure the dress is always hung back up correctly at home, and washed as needed.

### **Guys Formal Tuxedos**

- The tuxedo shirt is provided by the student. You may find them on your own from a store such as K&G, Penney's, Kohls, etc. Sometimes, you can even find them really cheap at Hobby Lobby, Michael's or Garden Ridge! (in the "wearables" area) These are generally under \$30.00, and they sometimes even come with your own cummerbund and bow-tie!

\* An online site you may consider: <http://www.uniformwearhouse.com/apages/tuxedoshirts1.html>

**Just make sure that you get the style with a pleated front (pleats should be about ¼" –not the wider ones) and with a wing-tip collar (very important to get this style of collar – NOT a standard collar that folds down like on regular dress shirt)**

- When you get your own shirt, an option that often comes with the shirt is black "button studs." These may be utilized in lieu of the standard front buttons, but they must be black studs (no other color). Your shirt may also have cuff-links. These are fine to be worn if you choose (it's actually a classy look!)
- The rest of the tuxedo is provided by the band. This consists of the jacket, the pants, a cummerbund, and a bow tie. Each part is numbered and checked out to the student. These items are dry-cleaned only and can NOT be washed at home.
- Black dress shoes with black socks (only!) must be worn with the tuxedo. If a pair of dress shoes are not available, then the same shoe that was worn during marching season may also be worn.
- Hair should be neatly groomed, in keeping with the formal look of the tuxedo. Rings and watches are okay, but a necklace would not be appropriate.
- It is critical that the tuxedo be hung up correctly in your closet at home. Make sure your shirt is washed after every use to avoid "ring around the collar". The shirt should be ironed before wearing (they are not wrinkle-free!)
- The bow tie and cummerbund should stay with the uniform at all times. The bow-tie can be kept in the pocket of the jacket. The cummerbund can be hung on the shirt hanger with the tux shirt. Depending on the hanger used with the jacket, it may also hang on that hanger instead. Remember—each student is responsible for the bow-tie and cummerbund checked out to them!