

Conductor throws out audience member whose phone went off

1. Listen to part of a concert by viola player Lukas Kmit. What happened? What did he do? 4.3

2. Read an article about an incident in a concert and comments that people made after. Which comments do you agree with?



At the National Music Auditorium in Madrid, Wednesday's performance of Handel's *Messiah* was interrupted by a mobile phone going off in a row close to the stage, during the aria *He was despised*. Conductor William Christie stopped the performance, turned, pointed at the phone owner, and shouted, 'Out! You have just ruined one of the most beautiful passages of one of the most beautiful works ever written.'

Comments

 **danny** 23 December 14.50

Good for him. It's time people protested against this kind of behaviour. If people can't live without their phones for two hours, ¹they shouldn't go to concerts. We need a new rule for concert halls and theatres: ²you have to leave your phone, or any other device, in the cloakroom, similar to the way you have to check in most bags and backpacks in museums. And the same for the cinema!

REPLY **cassie** 23 December 17.30

Great idea. I would also add another rule: if you are caught with a mobile device in the auditorium, ³you must immediately pay a fine!

REPLY **anton** 23 December 19.43

If you ban mobile phones from concerts, you'll lose a lot of the audience. There are people who have work phones, and their companies tell them ⁴they mustn't give their phones to anyone, because of company IT policies.

REPLY **kasia** 24 December 01.16

I think all concert halls ⁵should block mobile phone reception. Reception could be available until right before the concert begins, during the interval, and immediately after it finishes.

REPLY **marcel** 24 December 07.08

Blocking reception wouldn't solve the problem. Often when mobiles go off, it's an alarm that the owner has forgotten was on, which ⁶doesn't have to have reception to go off.