

## LETTERS

### Don't follow leaders

**S**ir, Your letters page has featured a lively discussion on when and whether audiences should clap at concerts.

Schoolmasterly purists say only at the end. Free spirits say after any distinct section that the audience has appreciated. Jazz enthusiasts say whenever. I say that I've watched too many leaders' speeches at too many party conferences, too routinely punctuated by too-dutiful applause (20 or 30 rounds is not uncommon) to want the practice to spread.

So I propose a synthesis between the tut-tut and the hang-loose brigades. Applause that interrupts should be considered unusual, faintly embarrassing and slightly inappropriate. Then, when it happens, we'll know that it's spontaneous and passionate.

TONY GARRETT  
Bath

### One hand clapping

Sir, Peter Lawson (letter, July 28) is correct to point out that applause after jazz solos is very much the done thing. What he fails to mention is that very often this is more a sign of relief than appreciation.

JOEL HANLEY  
London N8

### Rumble thy bellyful

Sir, Who is being applauded — the creator, or the performer?

A great work sweeps us along with it and silence is an integral part of that. Applause stops the flow and distracts us from the timeless work of art to the more ephemeral performance, whether by the singer, instrumentalist, or orchestral conductor. It is the original work that must be paramount.

Imagine you are at a production of *King Lear*, with a great actor in the title role. How would you like it if the audience applauded after "Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks!"?  
MORAGH GEE  
London NW3

*The Times, 2010*

## Tekst 4 Letters

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- 4p 8 Geef van elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan welke persoon deze mening heeft: Garrett, Hanley, Gee of niemand.
- 1 When to applaud should depend on the sort of music being performed.
  - 2 Applause has a direct impact on the performances of the musicians on stage.
  - 3 Jazz musicians encourage their audience to demonstrate their appreciation regularly.
  - 4 Intermittent applause is only acceptable as a sincere expression of genuine appreciation.
  - 5 Applause does not necessarily express positive emotion.
  - 6 A concert audience's appreciation is essentially different from that of a theatre audience's.
  - 7 Applause may violate the essence of the work being performed.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door "Garrett", "Hanley", "Gee" of "niemand".

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