
Concert Review

Objectives: *Be exposed to live performances of varying styles, genres and instrumentation that includes your instrument. Develop active listening skills. Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to the overall performance and to one person playing your instrument. Explore how music critics dissect a performance and report their findings. Assume the role of a professional music critic and compose your own concert review.*

Instructions:

1. **Assignment:** You are assigned to attend the Moscow String Quartet performance on Friday, September 23, 2011 at 7pm in the DSA Concert Hall. DSA Students attend for free. General admission for all others is \$15 – cash or check only (make checks payable to: Moscow String Quartet). You must write a concert review of the performance.
2. **Evidence:** A *program* and a *ticket stub* must be attached to the review. You must also fill out and attach the Concert Review Cover Sheet.
3. **Research:** Look in the paper or online for samples of concert reviews to get ideas on how they are constructed. To verify this, you must attach one copy of a *professional concert review* you researched to this report.
4. **Parameters:** Your review must be typewritten, double-spaced, composed in complete sentences, in paragraph format and using correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. Your report must include the following four sections (each section must be at least one paragraph consisting of 3-5 complete sentences in length):
 - *Opening:* Introduce the performance: date, location, ensemble, conductor, pieces being performed, etc. Describe the performance setting: stage set-up, how the musicians entered the stage, how they were sitting in relation to each other and in relation to the audience, etc. Describe anything unique to the performance setting, such as special lighting, effects, set, acoustic, electric, microphones, amps, etc. (20 points)
 - *Program:* Discuss the overall effectiveness of the performance: musicality, dynamic contrast and emotions it may or may not have elicited in you and anything else you feel is important to share with the reader. For each selection performed, state 1 thing that went well and 1 thing that you feel could be improved. (20 points)
 - *Performer:* If there is more than one person playing your instrument, focus on the key player; basses focus on the cellist. Discuss her or his posture, instrument hold, bow hold, bow angle, contact point, articulation, shifting, intonation, technical prowess and anything else you feel is important. (20 points)
 - *Closing:* Describe your overall review of the performance. Be specific. “I liked it” or “I didn’t like it” will not suffice. You must discuss *in depth* (3-5 sentences) your favorable and/or unfavorable review of the performance. Evidence a minimum of three supporting statements to defend your argument. Your supporting arguments must discuss tangible *technical* qualities (such as, intonation, balance, dynamics, articulation, shifting, etc.) and *musical* qualities (such as, interpretation, phrasing, musicality, etc.). The last sentence of your report must state whether or not you recommend the performance to others. (20 points)
6. **Submission:** Staple the parts of your review together (1 staple in the top left corner) in the following order: a. Cover sheet (5 points), b. Ticket stub (5 points), c. Program (5 points), d. Hardcopy of professional concert review found online or in other media (5 points), e. Hardcopy of your concert review (80 points).
7. **Deadline:** Your review is due in the orchestra office no later than one week after the performance date. You may turn it in one day past the due date for a 10% grade reduction. Reviews submitted past the deadline will not be accepted without written notice of special circumstance (i.e., illness, death in the family or other district approved excused absences).

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Cover Sheet

Date Submitted: ____/____/____

Name: _____

Event: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ # of Performers: _____

Ensemble / Performer(s) Name: _____

Conductor? yes no If yes, Conductor's Name: _____

Selections Performed (include composer, birth/death dates, title, opus if applicable, movements, etc.):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____