Concert Report Project

Purpose: This project is designed to help you listen deeply to music and to write about it using the vocabulary we have studied in class. A list of approved concerts websites will be provided. If you would like to report on a concert not on the approved list please ask me and/or email me the promotional information on the concert. Also, I want you to be able to focus on the listening experience, so you cannot report on a concert in which you are part of the performing ensemble.

Formatting Guidelines: All submissions must be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman or Calibri fonts. Margins may be no wider that 1" (one inch) on all sides but may be smaller. Title your paper with the name of the concert, your name, and MUSI 1306 centered at the top of the first page in the same font and size as the rest of your paper. Indent the first line of every paragraph (one tab) and leave one carriage return between each paragraph.

Content Guidelines: Be sure to get a copy of the program so you know exactly what was performed. Attach it or scan and attach it to your report for full credit. Your report should be **2-3 pages** long and address the following points in prose form:

- Who is performing (what type of ensemble/solo)?
- Where are they performing – try to be as specific as possible without being silly, i.e. "I attended the Houston Grand Opera performance of Jake Heggie's *It's A Wonderful Life* at the performing arts center in downtown Houston."
- Write a brief paragraph or two on your initial feelings and/or impressions of the experience. Include an idea of where you are sitting in the theatre (center, side, balcony, so high up you can barely see the stage) and your expectations of the performance. This section will contain mostly your opinions.
- For each selection, list the title, composer, genre, and era of the work. In most programs, the birth and death dates of the composer and the year the piece was written are listed so you can use this information to help determine the era. Use the broad genre labels we have discussed in class such as suite, sonata, concerto, etc.
- After this, describe as accurately as possible what you hear using terms we have discussed in class. For example: "A solo clarinet started the piano concerto with a glissando that began at a pianissimo then crescendoed to a loud squeal."
- Next, give your opinions and impressions of the piece. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. "I liked it" or "I will never get that three minutes of my life back" are great starting points, but I am more interested in know why you liked or disliked a piece.
- Continue piece by piece (for an opera, each act) until you have described the entire concert. If the concert has more than four major works/opera acts, select four to discuss. A song cycle or separate movements can be described as one piece, but you can single out part of the work if you found it particularly interesting.
- Conclude your report with a paragraph or two describing your overall impressions of the performance. If anything surprised you about the music, performers, or presentation, list it here and tell why you felt this way.

For an example of a professional concert review (on the Heggie opera) go here: http://artsandculturetx.com/angels-in-houston-its-a-wonderful-life-at-hgo/ This is slightly different than what I am asking you to write but you can get an idea of how professionals talk about music.

Submission: There is a submission link on Blackboard where you will upload your report. Be sure to check what file formats are acceptable – if the format you use is not compatible with Blackboard, you will not get credit for your submission. Reports may be submitted at any time during the semester – I would recommend writing it within a day or two of the concert so the ideas are fresh in your head. The final deadline is the end of the last day of classes.

Concert Websites:

https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/live-streamed-classical-music-concerts-coronavirus/

https://www.classicalmpr.org/story/2020/03/16/free-online-classical-concerts