

Music Performance Evaluation Guide

Directions:

1. Observe one opera in full: *La Boheme* (Puccini) or *Rigoletto* (Verdi)
Click [here](#) to access links to the operas. Study guides are provided.

Format:

2. Per the rubric, you will be graded both on length and content
 - a. Write a 4-page review of the opera, including the cover page (as page 1).
 - b. Download/Use the *Opera Critique Example* to ensure correct formatting.
 - c. Do not change fonts, font size or margins.

Cover page: Page 1 [10 points] Include these four lines with correct information

Your First Name Your Last Name
Instructor's name: First Last
Music Appreciation - MUSC 1101, Your Section
Date: [date you submit assignment]

Main Body of Critique: Write in a professional style throughout.

Introduction Production facts [10 points]

- A. Title of the opera: (You must either underline or *ITALICIZE* the title.)
- B. Names of composer(s): See film or reference material(s)
- C. Name of stage director: See production or film
- D. Name of conductor/music director: See production or film

Performance Evaluation [60 points]

- A. Select **TWO** primary performers from the opera, i.e., one male and one female. Identify each performer's character name (*Rigoletto*, *Mimi*, etc.).
- B. Describe each performer's voice in three ways:
 - a. Vocal type (soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, bass)
 - b. Vocal quality (lyric, dramatic)
 - c. Vocal tone (pleasing to hear, expressive abilities)
- C. Discuss each of the two performer's overall *effectiveness* in three ways:
 - a. Communication skills (Vocal, Facial, Emotional appeal and believability, Connection with audience)
 - b. Stage Presence
 - c. Costume and physical characteristics
- D. Cite 5-6 locations in the performance. Describe what happens and your evaluation of those specific moments
 - a. Ex: At (10:12 – 12:15) *Mimi* sings to *Rigoletto*.
- E. Other aspects.

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- a. Discuss costumes, lighting, sets, instrumentation, film production or any aspect that impacted your opinions about the performance.

Conclusion [20 points]

- A. Write a *strong* conclusion.
- B. Provide an overall rating scale using a Likert scale of 1-100.
- C. Explain why the performance received the overall review rating you gave.
- D. Substantiate your opinions (three-legged stool, triangulation).
- E. Discuss the main strengths and weaknesses.

Writing Process

1. Create an outline to use as a personal guide to writing the critique.
2. Do not turn in the outline. It is only for your use

Outline Example (Do not turn in)

Outline (Character #1)

- ✓ Communication skills
 - Vocal – Steve Jones (as Mr. Baker), lyrical tenor, role of baker, pleasing tone effective while swaying Jane (soprano, a cook) to fall in love
 - Facial – excellence connection with soprano (14:01-15:48)
 - Emotional appeal and believability – Alto/Bass duet (43:00-47:40)
 - Connection with audience – Death scene (145:00-149:10)
- ✓ Stage Presence
 - Costume – Cosi, dance scene with girls
 - Physical characteristics – Baritone, Juan, powerful, on top of wall, costumes changed throughout
- ✓ Citations
 - Take notes as you observe the opera.
 - Record specific locations – starting/ending points
- ✓ Conclusion
 - Strengths – main characters' voices, Cosi's aria, duet, orchestra
 - Weaknesses – chorus singers, costuming of townspeople, lighting
 - Overall score
 - Recommendations

Outline (Character #2)

- ✓ Communication skills
 - Vocal – Steve Jones (as Mr. Baker), lyrical tenor, role of baker, pleasing tone effective while swaying Jane (soprano, a cook) to fall in love
 - Facial – excellence connection with soprano (14:01-15:48)
 - Emotional appeal and believability – Alto/Bass duet (43:00-47:40)
 - Connection with audience – Death scene (145:00-149:10)
- ✓ Stage Presence
 - Costume – Cosi, dance scene with girls

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- Physical characteristics – Baritone, Juan, powerful, on top of wall, costumes changed throughout
- ✓ Citations
 - Take notes as you observe the opera.
 - Record specific locations – starting/ending points
- ✓ Conclusion
 - Strengths – main characters’ voices, Cosi’s aria, duet, orchestra
 - Weaknesses – chorus singers, costuming of townspeople, lighting
 - Overall score
 - Recommendations
- ✓ Writing tips
 - Write to communicate.
 - The reader has not observed the details that you are describing.
 - Be detailed and specific.
 - Use complete sentences.
 - Write in Active Voice

Opera Critique Rubric

	Needs work	Competent	Excellent
COVER PAGE – 10 pts A. Correctly formatted	(0-4 pts)	(5-8 pts)	(9-10 pts)
INTRODUCTION -10pts A. Title of opera B. Composer C. Stage Director D. Conductor/Music Director	(0-4 pts)	(5-8 pts)	(9-10 pts)
PERFORMANCE –60 pts A. Character’s name B. Voice: SATB C. Quality: Lyric, dramatic D. Tone: Expression E. Communication F. Stage Presence G. Locations cited	(0-30 pts)	(31- 40 pts)	(41-60 pts)
CONCLUSION – 20 pts A. Appropriate grammar B. Rating scale C. Strengths/Weaknesses	(0-8 pts)	(9-16 pts)	(17-20 pts)

Grade: _____