# MUSIC APPRECIATION CONCERT REPORT FORMAT

**Due to circumstances concerning  COVID-19, the LIVE concert assignment will now be a VIRTUAL concert assignment.  You must choose ONE of the packages listed in the ‘concert packages’.  Once you have watched the concert follow the "concert report format" below to write your paper.  Once you have written the paper, use the 'submit your concert report here' tab below to submit.**

Length: No less than two pages and no more than three pages, typed, double-space

Grading Policy for Concert Report

*(The following percentages are assigned to the overall grade of the concert paper.)*

Introduction 10% in length and value

Objective Description of the Music 30% in length and value

Subjective Description of the Music 50% in length and value

Conclusion 10% in length and value

**Begin With:**

Your name

Name of group/soloist(s)

Date of performance

List of pieces performed

**BODY OF THE PAPER**

Description

**Introduction**

**(10% in length and value)**

Briefly identify the concert. Who performed? What pieces were performed? Where was it performed? **I understand that you are watching a video. Complete the introduction the best that you can.**

**Title of the First Piece**

**Objective Description of the Music**

(30% in length and value)

This is **your** description of what **you** heard at the concert. If a work has several movements describe the manner in which the movements are related. Provide a **narrative** of your observations concerning such elements as melody, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, instrumentation, texture, form, etc. Describe the major musical characteristics of the piece, including the solos, tempo, dynamics, instrumentation, or themes, etc.

• You must write about every piece on the concert. Comment on every piece on the program! I cannot emphasize the importance of this enough.

• You do not have to describe all movements of each piece. If a work has several movements describe the manner in which the movements are related.

!! Heads Up !!

The objective descriptions must consist solely of *your own observations* about the music as performed at the concert you attended. Your paper should *not* include facts about the music from other sources including: program notes, the web, liner notes, other students, the textbook, etc. **Including unaccredited material-program notes, web sites, newspaper reviews from outside sources in your objective descriptions will result in a failing grade.**

**Subjective Reactions to the Music**

(50% in length and value)

These paragraphs describe **your** emotional response to the music. Did you like it or dislike it and, most importantly, **why** did you react as you did? What about the performance affected you? Express your opinion, but don't forget to explain your reasons.

Did you like individual pieces? Did you have emotional reactions to any particular piece? Why did you react the way you did? Was it in the composition or the performance or both? What held your attention? Did your mood change in the course of the concert? Was the concert full of variety or was it all more or less the same? Could the performance be better? How? Could the selection of compositions performed have been more to your taste? Was this a familiar or a new experience? Was there a theatrical dimension to the performance?

Write a single short paragraph of subjective reaction for *each piece* on the concert even if the piece has more than one movement. Do not write a separate subjective reaction for each movement in multi-movement pieces.

**Titles of Additional Pieces**

**Objective Descriptions** and **Subjective Reactions** for each additional piece on the concert follow here. Write on each piece performed.

**Conclusion (10% in value)**

Did you like or dislike the experience overall? How do you think the arts impact the community?

**Quality of Performance**

The final Quality of Performance paragraph is the conclusion of your report. It focuses on the concert as a whole, rather than on the individual pieces. What were the notable features of the overall performance? Were there far too many wrong notes? If you know the pieces, were there some different or even incorrect interpretations? Were there distracting elements in the performance? Or was this the most inspired and inspiring performance that you have ever heard? Were you emotionally moved by the concert? Were some parts of the concert better/worse than others? Were there aspects that you found especially pleasing? Were there any surprises at the concert? Would you go again? Remember that "music criticism" is not only looking for faults, but is also recognizing the especially good things that happen during a performance.

**A final word:** Don’t let feelings of inadequacy about what you do or do not know or the lack of experience gets in the way of enjoying the music. This is not the same as going to a game or an amusement park, and the rewards are not the same. Your involvement as part of the audience is—like music itself—more thoughtful, subtler, refined. Going to performances enriches your life and provides a reward that can be had no other way. I might also add that it has been my experience that students find they enjoy live concerts even more than they thought they would!

**Suggestions:**

Write the first draft of your report as soon as possible after the concert so your impressions remain fresh, **but do not write during the concert**. Use the program to remind yourself of what you heard when you write your report. Use the program as a way to helping yourself use correct terminology. Do not use the program notes as a substitute for your own thinking and personal reactions; don’t cram your report full of historical tidbits about the pieces. Comment on matters of historical background only if they directly influence your personal experience of the music.

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