

PERFORMANCE REVIEW GUIDELINES

In essay form: Prepare a one page, word-processed and double-spaced narrative review that includes information responding to the items listed below. Attach a copy of the printed program with your review.

1. Identify type of event; give names of all performers (name of ensemble if large group), date and place. Identify instruments that were played or the type of ensemble performing (ex. Band, Choir, Symphony Orchestra, solo Piano).
2. Identify the compositions that were performed. Wherever possible, identify the composers. How was the overall program organized? Comment on the cohesiveness of the program. Comment on the nature and usefulness of the printed program, of the introductory statements within the program, and the pre-concert lecture, if any.
3. Comment on the artistry of the performer(s). Consider interpretation, excitement, energy, precision, technical ability, beauty, uniqueness. How involved were the performers with the music? If there were vocalists, were the words understandable? Was the text interpreted appropriately? If the words were in a language other than English, were translations furnished?
4. What piece or section of the program did you most enjoy? Why? Describe the emotional response it gave you and, if possible, how the music brought this about (e.g., discuss at least two elements of music).
5. Describe the physical and social environment. Were there any especially appropriate or distracting conditions or behavioral gestures on the part of either the performers or the audience (including dress, decorations, mannerisms, etc.)?
6. Did the acoustical qualities of the room (auditorium, chamber hall, nightclub, church) have any perceptible effect on the sound of the instruments and/or voice? If so, try to describe the effect.
7. What was your overall intellectual and emotional reaction to the program? Was there sufficient variety? Were you entertained, thrilled, bored? Was the sound what you expected? How did it compare to other similar performances you have attended?
8. How does this performance relate to the subject of our class?
9. Was this program a "museum" re-enactment of the musical past, a contemporary interpretation of the musical past, an experience with the music of today, or a combination? What aspects of this performance would you miss in a recorded version of the same music?

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE POINTS SHOULD SERVE ONLY AS GUIDELINES. YOU MAY EMBELLISH ON POINTS THAT RELATE TO YOUR EXPERIENCE, AND LEAVE OUT POINTS THAT DO NOT APPLY.