

Concert Attendance Reports – MUSC 10A – Summer 2019

Dr. Belet, SJSU

READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT –

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS.

Assignment #5 is a concert attendance report. For this project you will need to plan ahead: you may complete this assignment at any time prior to the submission deadline (August 9, the last day of the course: listed in the Semester Course Calendar Plan and also within the assignment page online). In addition to the guidelines provided via the online text for these assignments, here are my clarifications, updates, and additions.

You will need to attend a traditional “classical” concert for this assignment. There are few, if any, concerts on the SJSU campus during the summer, so you will need to locate off-campus concerts of Opera, Symphony, Choral, Chamber Music, or ‘Broadway’ Musical (with live musicians) in order to complete these assignments. You may not write about a “popular” music concert (e.g., Shoreline rock concert or band performing at a club), or a jazz concert. As long as it is a symphony orchestra concert, opera, choir concert, musical, chamber music (small ensembles) concert, any event is acceptable. If you go to a ballet or musical theater production (aka, “musical”), find a “professional” rather than “community” or children’s theater production. In any case, you must find a way to be able to see the orchestra at some point in the performance (they are usually in the “pit” - yes, that's what it's called). If you have any doubts about the acceptability of a specific concert, please contact me in advance with details.

Most professional off-campus concerts (e.g., opera, symphony orchestra, chamber music) have special reduced tickets for students. These may or may not be advertised on posters and web sites, so contact the producing organization directly and ask about student tickets.

Your Assignment [100 points total for the report]

For this concert report, write about three compositions that are performed during the concert. One must be the first piece performed, the second can be any other work in the ‘middle,’ and the third must be the last piece performed. You can write about more music performed, but I will only grade these three required compositions. (Be sure that you write about the three compositions in the performance order: first / middle / last.) Your report will consist of a minimum of five paragraphs and will cover 2-3 pages (if printed out).

I strongly recommend that you complete all course topics and their online assessments before writing this concert report, as you need all of this course knowledge in order to

write a good concert report. I will grade the report assuming that you know everything (and I literally mean EVERYTHING) that is covered in this course: history, theory, musical structure, genres and styles, proper use of terms, etc.

First paragraph [10 points out of total 100]:

- What is the venue (location) of the performance (use the formal name of the venue, usually printed on the concert program: e.g., SJSU Music Concert Hall; California Theatre, San Jose; or San Francisco Symphony Hall) and who is the group or persons performing (e.g., SJSU Jazz Combo, Clarinet Studio of Dr. Janet Averett, violinist Itzhak Perlman, or San Francisco Symphony)? List the concert date.
- How were the performers dressed? Why? How was the audience dressed? Why?
- What kind of listener were you at the concert? Why? You should mostly listen from the point of view of a perceptive listener in order to analyze and discuss the pieces performed. However, do use your instincts as a casual and referential listener to inform your analysis. E.G., how do you feel when you hear a crescendo? Other dynamics? Fast-paced music? Slow tempos? Simple versus complex music? Or, conversely, when you feel different emotions or see different pictures in your mind, what is happening in the music?
- What pieces of music were performed? List the entire concert program and include the composers' names and dates. If the composers' birth and death dates are not printed on the program (or listed on the video as annotated text), research this information after the concert. Format the composition titles correctly (see details near the end of this document).
- What was the instrumentation of the orchestra or ensemble? (This includes voices as well as instruments.) Be specific.
- Discuss the seating (or standing) arrangement of the instruments in the orchestra or ensemble. (NOTE: You do not have to draw out the seating arrangement.)
- If a choir concert, what was the arrangement of the different voice types and how large was the ensemble?

Second, third and fourth paragraphs (one paragraph per composition)
[20 points each; 60 points total]:

This is the main body of your paper and is therefore the most important. Analyze the three required compositions performed during the concert using the following criteria from the course, to the best of your ability:

- Restate the title of the composition and the composer (first sentence of the paragraph). [1 point]

- Overall style (e.g., classical, romantic, avant-garde, electronic, jazz) of the music including genre (e.g., opera aria, art song, concerto, sonata, symphony, single movement piece, opera, musical, jazz standard). How many movements does the piece have (e.g., how many “subtitles” are there under the main title, if any?) [2 points]
- Indicate the music’s historical period, consider the dates of the composer, and research after the concert as needed. Capitalize the name of the period (e.g., Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary period). [1 point]
- Form (large-scale structure of the music). Capital letters are used to describe large-scale form (as described in the course text): A B A C A, etc. Some clues can be in the titles of the piece or movement, such as “Variations...,” “Sonata for...,” “Rondo,” etc. Rondo is ONLY for instrumental music. Jazz has a certain set format that could be intro/tune with AAB or AABA format/solos and closing. Art songs are often strophic or through-composed (look these up). ABA can be used for instrumental or vocal music. Theme and variations is common in instrumental music (concerto movements) of the Classical and Romantic Era. Again, read the titles. Then just listen as the music unfolds: What primary sections happen in what order? [2 points]
- Address overall issues of unity & variety (review the course chapter on this, if necessary). What musical factors contributed to each of these two primary processes. [2 points]
- Purpose of the Music – does it have a specific function (such as for a graduation or wedding), is it abstract art music, or is it just entertainment? [1 point]
- Tempo – use standard Italian musical terms. [1 point]
- Dynamics – use standard Italian musical terms. [1 point]
- Timbre – what instruments or voices are featured and when/why? What is the effect? [2 points]
- Rhythm – can you hear the meter (duple or triple or other) and/or repeating patterns in the background? – is it smooth or angular? [1 point]
- Melody (conjunct or disjunct, and are there changes?); is there a clear, foreground melody at all times or just occasionally? [1 point]
- Are there solos? What instruments and in what order? Do the soloists improvise? [1 point]
- Harmony (Major or Minor chords, or some other structure; does it change?) [1 point]
- Texture (homophonic, monophonic, polyphonic, and are there changes)? If there is a melody plus background (whether percussion or not), it is homophonic, not polyphonic. Study the definitions and examples of these textures. [1 point]
- Mood of the piece and does it change? How does it make you feel? Be as descriptive as you can here. [2 points]
 - Use descriptive and interesting words to describe the mood of each piece and what you hear. Try to make each piece sound different from the others in your analysis.
- For live concert music, listen to the pieces again on YouTube or iTunes after you have gone to the concert to try to get additional information.

Final paragraph [10 points]

Summarize the overall musical content and effect of the concert, and then include whether you enjoyed the concert and what you learned. NOTE: This is a paragraph, so more than one sentence, but less than ten.

Further instructions [20 points]

You must submit your report online, using the C4E course site. Attach and submit your concert report (either a MSWord or PDF file) as instructed on the course assignment page. Do not send your file to me as an email attachment and do not mail a hard copy via snail mail. Don't forget to proofread since writing proficiency (including grammar, sentence structure, use of appropriate musical terms, and proper formatting of titles) will figure into your assignment grade. (NOTE: Every spelling and grammar error subtracts one or more points!) Consider reading your report out loud for organization and flow. Check the course syllabus and SJSU GE resources for the writing standards.

Write all of your own prose; do not lift text from another source. Plagiarism is considered academic dishonest at SJSU, and is grounds for automatic failing this course as well as more serious university action, including expulsion from SJSU.

A note regarding formatting of titles: the standard method of writing titles (compositions, books, films, etc.) is to place the text in italics, with each primary word of the title capitalized:

Piano Concerto in B Minor

Smaller titles – movements within a larger composition, individual songs within a song cycle, chapters within a book – are placed within quotation marks, and also properly capitalized:

“Autumn Reverie” from *Five Songs of Wonder*

When you are attaching your own text or PDF file for the larger written assignments, this is the expected formatting plan for titles. When typing a short answer into the text box within the C4E course window, it is permissible to use an alternate format for titles: Primary titles within double quotation marks, and secondary titles within single quotation marks:

‘Autumn Reverie’ from “Five Songs of Wonder”

“Piano Concerto in B Minor”

For live concerts, you must also mail in or drop off the actual **concert program** (printed paper document handed out before the concert) at the SJSU Music Office (Room 179, Music Building). The separate deadline for this is August 13, also listed in the Course Calendar document – note that this deadline means that the concert program is literally in the Music Office on time (i.e., not the postmark, if mailed). Include the following items:

1) actual printed **concert program** from the concert with the following information clearly added:

- (your name)
- 'MUSC 10A'
- 'Dr. Belet'

2) your ticket stub/receipt (stapled to the concert program). I have posted an example of a suitable concert program, properly labeled, with ticket attached, on my web site for this course.

The Music Office is usually open from 9-12 and 1-3 on weekdays (but the summer schedule can be a bit erratic). If I do not receive your ticket and program with your name on it (plus my name and 'MUSC 10A' clearly indicated), your report will be graded down a minimum of two letter grades, and perhaps more. DO NOT slip your concert program under my office door, and do not place it in any of the envelopes posted around my office. Only submit directly to the Music Office (in person or via the mail).

If you mail in your ticket stub and program, mail it to:

Dr. Brian Belet
School of Music and Dance
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose CA 95192-0095

Remember: Your written concert report (online) is due as indicated on the course schedule, and the printed concert program is due a few days later – and this means in my possession, not in transit.

Here are some approved regional concert organizations with websites:

Listening Hour and Events in the School of Music and Dance at SJSU:

www.music.sjsu.edu/music/events (show up at the door for tickets)

San Jose Chamber Orchestra: www.sjchambermusic.org

Symphony Silicon Valley: www.symphonysiliconvalley.org

San Francisco Symphony Orchestra: www.sfsymphony.org

Opera San Jose: www.operasj.org

San Francisco Opera: www.sfopera.com

Berkeley Opera: www.berkeleyopera.org

Palo Alto TheatreWorks: www.theatreworks.org

San Jose Chamber Music Society: www.sjchambermusic.org

San Francisco Chamber Music: www.chambermusicsf.org
Santa Cruz Symphony Orchestra: www.santacruzsymphony.org
Monterey Symphony Orchestra: www.montereysymphony.org
Musical Theater in San Francisco: (just google this to find out productions and venues)
Stanford Lively Arts Series: www.livelyarts.stanford.edu

***** One of the best web sites for Bay-area concerts is:** www.sfcv.org/calendar
(This is often my first place to look for concerts.)

Important Hint

I highly recommend you first write your report using any word processor (e.g., MSWord). Take advantage of the software's spell-checking and grammar-checking tools, as proper writing is an important part of this course, and all of these details are carefully graded.

Have fun!

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