

Concert Attendance Reports – MUSC 10A

Dr. Belet, SJSU

READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT –

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS LISTED HEREIN.

Assignments #5 & #6 are concert attendance reports. For these projects you will need to plan ahead: you may complete these at any time but note the submission deadline for each assignment (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 this activity, here are my clarifications, updates, and additions:

You will need to attend a Symphony Orchestra Concert, recital or concert in the SJSU Music Concert Hall (such as the Listening Hour midday series or evening/weekend events), or an off-campus Opera, Symphony performance, Choral concert, or Musical 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), and you may attend only ONE jazz concert (i.e., one of the two concert reports may be for an approved jazz concert). Overall, classical concerts work better for both concert reports. 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. The SJSU Music Program produces 80-100 concerts per semester, and all are appropriate for these assignments. Many SJSU concerts are free; some have modest admission fees, with reduced tickets for SJSU students (\$5-\$10). Check out the events calendar at: www.sjsu.edu/music/discovering_music/events_cal/

Also, 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 feel contact the producing organization directly and ask about student tickets.

Your Assignment [100 points total for each report]

For each concert report, write about at least three compositions that are performed during the concert. One must be the first piece, one must be the last piece; the third can be any other work in between. Of course, you can always write on more; however, 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 separately).

I strongly recommend that you complete all course topics and their online assessments before writing these concert reports, as you need all of this course knowledge in order to write a good concert report. I will grade these reports 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 (make this brief) [10 points out of total 100]:

- What is the venue (location) of the performance (use the formal name of the venue: 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, 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, research this information after the concert.
- What was the instrumentation of the orchestra or ensemble? (This includes voices as well as instruments.)
- 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 (first sentence of the paragraph). [1 point]
- Overall style (e.g., Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary, 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 (how many “subtitles” are there under the main title?) [2 points]
- Form (large-scale structure of the music). 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]
- Historical Period (consider the dates of the composer, and research after the concert as needed). [1 point]
- 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)? Are there solos? 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.
- 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, by clicking 'Submit' on the Submit Web Query Assignment page. Do not send it to the instructor as an email attachment and do not mail a hard copy via snail mail. As well, you usually must reformat the report when you submit it online. 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!) Be sure that your text wraps normally for the online version that I will read. If necessary, manually adjust your line breaks after you upload the text. Funky line breaks will result in point reductions. Separate all paragraphs with an extra blank line. Overall, if it is difficult to read, it will be counted wrong. 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: the standard method of writing titles (compositions, books, films, etc.) is to place that 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*

There seems to be a problem with the online portal accepting italic font when you upload your text. One solution is to use basic HTML code before and after the title to be placed in italic font: `<i>This Text is Italic</i>`

This will result in *This Text is Italic* being printed on the course upload window.

Otherwise, you can use an alternate plan 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"

Chose one method and stick with it – be consistent, be clear.

In order to get full credit for your concert report you must also mail in or drop off the actual **concert program** at the SJSU Music Office (Room 179, Music Building). The separate deadline for this is 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 (stapled to the concert program), or SJSU usher punch for concerts that do not issue tickets.

The Music Office is usually open from 9-12 and 1-3 on weekdays. 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), or (if you happen to find me in my office) deliver the program directly into my hands.

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.chambermusicssf.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

Important Hint

I highly recommend you first write your report using any word processor (PC Users: MSWord, WordPad, or NotePad. Mac Users: MSWord or TextEdit.). Please make sure you save your work as you go along. When you are done, CUT and PASTE your report into the online assignment box. That way, if for any reason you loose your internet connection in the middle of typing your answer, you won't lose all the work you have done up to that point.

Have fun!

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