Concert Reports

Attending a live concert is one of the highlights of anyone’s musical life. One generally attends a concert to enjoy the music and the real-time, before-your-eyes and ears re-creation of the music. The goal of a concert report is to get you to listen very carefully, with great detail, depth and a very open mind.

Two concert reports are required – the first one is due by 11:59 pm, November 23, 2017 (Thanksgiving Day). The second is due 10:30 am Tuesday, December 14, 2017, the day of final examination. You may turn in concert reports before the due dates if you wish.

Both concerts must be presented by the DVC Music Department. One must be on a concert of Western Classical Music (Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Choirs, Piano, Guitar). The other may be as well, or you may opt to report on a concert of jazz music, again presented by the DVC Music Department. These concerts are listed on the DVC Music Fall 2017 Concert poster: http://www.dvc.edu/campus-life/music/current-concert.html

FORMAT:

• 1 short paragraph (at least 3 sentences) on who the performers (the name of the performer, and/or the name of the group - no long lists of names and biographical info), what they perform upon (voice, instrument, type of ensemble), etc. (1), when and where.

• 1 Paragraph that comments on the physical and social environment inside the concert venue.

• 1 or more Paragraphs on the music or section of the music that made the greatest impression upon you. After naming the piece or movement of a larger work, please write according to your Procedure for Listening to Music webpage; thus, make sure you support your subjective impressions…with objective observations, using as many objective parameters as possible, at least two to three objective observations for each subjective impression. You may refer to information from the program notes (such as what the music is supposed to be about), but you may not copy or quote from them; in other words, use your own words.

• 1 final paragraph on your overall impression of your concert experience.

Staple your ticket stub (with date, place and name of event) onto the back of your report. Reports must be typed. Reports may be submitted by e-mail if it is not possible to submit a hardcopy (i.e. on Thanksgiving Day). If you must e-mail your concert report, ticket stub may be photographed and e-mailed along with your report.

AT THE CONCERT:
Dress respectfully (concerts are social as well purely musical occasions). Take notes quietly on a hard-backed notepad with a ball-point pen (pencils make too much noise). During the performance of the music itself, turn off your mobile device and or computer, do not talk or text, and do not leave your seat unless there is an emergency. Applaud only at the end of a piece of music, and not between movements (parts) thereof - wait for the conductor to put his/her hands down, or for the instrumentalists to put their instruments down if there is no conductor - if you are not sure, wait until everyone else begins applauding. Go with your classmates, friends or family, or bring a date, go to dinner before, go out after... have a good time!
I attended a concert by members of the DVC Philharmonic Orchestra on October 3, 2013. Owen Lee, my professor for MUSIC 110, was the conductor. The ensemble consisted of a small string section with a flute, clarinet, bassoon, and piano. They appeared to be regular DVC students as well as older returning students. All were dressed on formal concert attire.

The concert was held in M-101, the classroom for my MUSIC 110 class. The room was full of my classmates as well as people from outside of the class. All were dressed in regular school attire, and appeared to be enjoying a short break from classes or work. I appreciated the relative informality of the concert of the setting.

_Appalachian Spring_ by Aaron Copland began with the strings and woodwinds tentatively working there way in with a short, ascending motive. This caused me to imagine a very peaceful morning. The slow, legato woodwind melody depicted the sun rising slowly and warmly through the parting mists. The lush string harmonies showed me the soft grass with dandelions, still wet with the morning dew. They sparkled from the morning light, as portrayed by the silvery tone of the flute, playing her gentle melody. The slow tempo and soft dynamic brought a true sense of the gently emerging day. This was my favorite section of the music.

This concert was the highlight of my day. It offered a most welcome respite from all of my classes and studying. I was amazed that the audience remained perfectly quiet with absolutely no talking, texting, e-mailing or web-browsing during the performance. A number of fellow students took notes quietly in their notebooks using a ballpoint pen. I made sure to applaud only at the end of the entire work and not between individual movements or sections. I forgot to use the restroom before the concert, but did not dare get up once the music began, for I would disturb the performance. The next time I go to a concert, I’ll be prepared.