

Concert Performance

Attendance & Critique

Students that have signed up to receive Honors Credit for Concert Band, Chorus, and String Ensemble are required to attend a concert performance and write a critique of their experience. The following includes a general guideline for students to understand what concerts are acceptable to attend and how to appropriately critique the performance.

Performances

With so many options of concerts to attend, it is first necessary to explain what types of performances are acceptable. The concerts must be “classical” in nature and in some way should represent one of the four performing ensembles we have a Xavier. Any Orchestral, Symphonic Band, Choral, or Jazz group would certainly be appropriate. Recitals, Musicals, and Operas are also acceptable as they contain elements found in these ensembles. Pop or Rock concerts are NOT considered acceptable performances for this assignment. If there is any doubt about a performance you are planning to attend, simply check with the Mr. Dresko or Mr. Elligers first.

Please remember to take a program of the performance so that it can be passed in along with the written critique.

Critique

Following the performance, you must write a 2-3 page, typed and double-spaced, critique of the concert. This critique should be in your own words and should reflect your entire experience of the performance. A critique analyzes, interprets, describes, and evaluates an event, answering the questions: “How? Why? How well?” A critique does not have to be entirely negative; it may be positive, negative, or a combination of the two.

A few questions to consider include: What was your overall reaction to the performance? What were some of the highlights (positive or negative)? Was the event well-organized? Can you comment on musical elements (beat, rhythm, tempo, melody, harmony)? If there was a conductor, did you feel the conductor communicated his or her interpretation of the music to the players and the audience?

In your description, please make sure to include titles of the piece(s), composers, place of performance, date of performance, and the name(s) of conductors, soloists, and the group that performed.

Have fun with this project! Remember, the object of this exercise is to listen to music with a discriminating ear and give feedback. Even though this is a required assignment, it does not mean that you cannot also enjoy the experience as well. A good critic walks into an event with an open mind, seeking to gain new insight through that particular performance.