

WRITTEN ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment should be completed as a **last resort** and you must communicate with Ms. Barbosa to receive approval to complete this assignment in lieu of project(s). This assignment has a special due date which will be strictly enforced with a ten point per day penalty for late work.

Critical Review of a Classical “Live” Performance, Solo Performance, or Workshop

1. You may attend a performance of an instrumental soloist, small ensemble, vocal ensemble, concert band, wind ensemble, orchestra, chamber group, or master class/workshop as an audience member and submit a review as a performance. You must watch an entire live performance, and it should be related to the music genres we do in class (for example, a Taylor Swift concert critical review would not be applicable).
2. Performances should generally be of high school, university level, or professional performers. Keep in mind that high school and university levels are more close to your own level of musicianship so it will be easier to find both strengths and weaknesses in their presentations. Professional performances' criticism can be more difficult for you.
3. **Write ONE review.** *Write as if it is an actual newspaper critique* for musicians as well as non-musicians. This review should be around 2 pages long with a 1-inch margin on all sides and using a standard font size (like 12pt Times New Roman/around 600-1000 words).

A written review of the performance should include the following information in a prose style:

- Name of the soloist or ensemble performing.
- Date and place of performance.
- A description of the intended audience for which the concert was given.
- Instrumentation of the ensemble - list personnel **only if it is a small group** (for example, a string quartet).
- Titles and composers of the pieces being performed.
- Provide some background information about the musical selections, if possible.
- Comment on the quality level of performance using musical terminology. Talk about the following aspects of performance: tone quality, intonation, balance, blend, dynamic contrasts, rhythm and meter, articulation, the creation of a feeling or mood, appropriate attention to historical style or stylistic nuance, etc.
- Was the performance appropriate for the intended audience?
- Your personal reaction to the performance. Would you attend another by the same group or individual?
- Include an interesting title to your review, and an appropriate introduction and conclusion.

This assignment will follow the [Scoring Guidelines for Written Work](#).