

Concert Response Essay

Due: December 12 (section 0701), December 11 (section 2001)

Online reference: <https://drjonesmusic.me/concert-response-essay-fall-2018/>

When you hand in your essay, staple together in order:

- 1) Grading rubric – include your name and section #
- 2) Your concert response essay
- 3) Concert program

Prompt

Attend a classical music concert and write a 1- to 2-page reflection on the experience in which you do the following two things in any order you choose:

- 1) Describe the **one thing** you found to be the most interesting or surprising aspect of the experience and say why it was interesting or surprising to you. Use at least one concrete, specific example to support your description.
- 2) Show how something you experienced at the concert connected to an idea discussed or read about in class/online, or how it helped you understanding something from the course material in a new way.

(The example you use for prompt question #1 can be the same example that you use for question #2, or it may not be.)

Attach the program from your concert to your essay.

The concert you attend must be of classical music (the kind of music we study in class). A list of suggested concerts is available on the class website. If you find another concert that you would rather attend, you must email me and get permission to attend that concert.

Formatting

- 12-point font
- 1-inch margins
- Double spaced
- One- to two-page essay (no fewer than one, no more than two pages)
- Do not include a heading
- The essay should have a creative, descriptive, and enticing title
- The program from the concert must be stapled to your essay

Concert Response Essay – Rubric (staple to the front of your draft)

Student: _____ Section: _____

Title	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good title is engaging, accurate, avoids clichés, and is not too long.

Structure	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good essay includes an introduction and a conclusion; a strong/good essay presents a logical flow of ideas and avoids straying or meandering; a strong/good paragraph remains focused on a single main idea, and all sentences within a paragraph support its main idea.

Use of technical vocabulary	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good essay uses discipline-specific vocabulary appropriately and accurately.

Written skill	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good essay is well-organized and generally contains correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling; a strong/good essay demonstrates appropriate and effective word choice and style; in a strong/good essay, the prose is easy to follow, precise, and clear; a strong/good essay avoids both vagueness and redundancy; a good/strong essay avoids inaccuracies; a strong/good essay analyzes rather than summarizes.

Requirements and formatting	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good essay adheres to the requirements of prompt (length, format, number of examples, and kinds of examples). A strong/good/OK essay includes a copy of the concert program attached.

Introduction	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good introduction frames the essay's topic in a manner that is insightful, clear, and engaging.

Concert experience: Critical Thinking	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good essay addresses this question in a way that is insightful rather than vague or superficial; a strong/good essay goes beyond the superficial by thoughtfully incorporating comparison, contrast, and/or synthesis; a strong/good essay addresses the implication of the ideas under consideration.

Concert experience: Support	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good essay uses specific examples to support this prompt question that are interesting, relevant, specific, sufficient, and directly connected to the main idea; strong/good examples support your argument explicitly; any musical examples are accurately described. A strong/good essay prioritizes details from the concert rather than giving a play-by-play of several things that occurred.

Conclusion	Strong	Good	O.K.	Weak	Points: ___/10
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A strong/good conclusion broadens the scope of the essay by relating its ideas to other topics, new questions, or contexts; a strong/good/ok conclusion is not a repetition of the introduction.

Total points _____/90

Letter grade: _____